

Residential Services

Room Safety Policy

Purpose: To ensure all staff are consistent in their approach with regard to assessment and removal of items from bedrooms when dealing with young people who are at risk of suicide and self harm.

Introduction

To ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures for young people where there are concerns raised due to risk of suicide or self harm.

Shift leaders are to be ultimately responsible for the safety of the unit by implementing the following policy.

Any decisions to change a young person's risk assessment or level of risk should be determined by all staff on duty and reported to manager on call.

Items removed from Bedrooms

If a young person is considered at risk of suicide or self harm, then ALL items that could be used to self-harm must be removed from their bedrooms.

Photographs and pictures should NOT be removed from their room unless the young person requests for them to be taken or they have a history of inflicting self harm by cutting.

If the young person has ligatured or has a history of ligaturing, then systems will need to be put in place to monitor on a regular basis and recorded appropriately.

Items can be returned to the young person's room after the risk assessment has been reviewed to determine risk has been reduced or during a review meeting attended by a member of the management team.

Whilst a young person is at risk of suicide or self harm, searches of bedrooms should be increased and discussed with them before being added to the risk assessment. The frequency of the room searches will depend on the level of risk the young person presents.

High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
Daily room searches	Room searches every other day	Room searches every week

If any member of staff on duty believes that a young person may have secreted items into their rooms for the purpose of self harm, a room search must be done immediately, regardless of any searches which are currently in place.

Activities

If a young person is at risk of suicide or self harm, the activities that they undertake must take account of any risks that they may present and be included on a separate risk assessment form.