



Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any other questions or would like some support completing this survey and/or going through this sheet, please feel free to get in touch: engagement@clareproject.org.uk or 07464229395

1. Is there a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) coming to Sussex?

We hope so – this will help show it is needed and wanted by the community. This survey contributes towards the business case that Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) are putting to NHS England.

It has been many years of consideration and work to get to this stage, and NHS England recognise there is a need for services available across the country to increase.

2. Why is my feedback important?

We know our community has been asking for better access to healthcare for years, but we hope to be approaching the last hurdles. NHS England are really keen to hear about innovative and ambitious pilots for GICs that truly meet the needs of our diverse community. By providing your feedback, we can support the building of something that is informed by our lived experience, and aim to improve overall accessibility to gender-

affirming healthcare.

3. Who are The Clare Project and why are we doing this?

The Clare Project have been running community-led support services for transgender, non-binary and/or gender-variant adults for 21 years. We are based in Brighton, but support community members across Sussex. We are a registered charity with a mixture of paid staff and volunteers, and have contact with up to 150-200 community members every month.

Much of our work focuses on tackling inequalities and access to healthcare, but we also work with other services in holding space for community consultations, engagement and/or training. All of our work is led by the community, for the community, and we pride ourselves on building resources and developing training/consultancy that is community-led and written.

We are doing this piece of engagement because we are acutely aware of the negative impact of long GIC waiting times, and how there is a desperate need for an increase in local provision. We hope that our involvement in this work will increase opportunities for community insight and feedback, that will authentically inform the project going forward.

You can find out more about what we do on our website

www.clareproject.org.uk or by signing up to our bulletin on the last page of the survey.

4. And who are Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)?

You can find out more about SPFT, their services and what they do here:

<https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/about-us>

5. Will it be the same as other GICs in the country?

Yes, the same as adult GIC services – for those aged 17+.

Although we are supporting SPFT in looking at other innovative methods of providing these services, it will have to adhere to current NHS guidelines and service specification for adults:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/service-specification-gender-dysphoria-services-non-surgical-june-2019.pdf>

However, all feedback on all elements of how the GIC operates are most welcome.

6. If I live in Sussex and have already been referred to a GIC/are already on the waiting list, can I move my referral?

The plan is that anyone registered with a Sussex-based GP practice will be referred to the Sussex GIC, unless already under the care of another GIC.

If wishing to relocate care, you could request a transfer of care.

7. If under this new GIC, would I be seen quicker than the expected waiting times of approximately 3+ years?

We are unsure at this stage. Obviously new services take a long time to set up, and there are lots of people in Sussex waiting to be seen.

However we hope that it will speed up everyone's access to treatment/support overall, and going forward.

8. Will there be more community consultations? When will we hear any more updates on this?

Yes! The Clare Project might not be doing it, but we will be sure to keep you in the know as we recognise this is a really important and exciting opportunity. By signing up to bulletins/future engagement on the final page of the survey, we'll be sure to keep you updated.

The Clare Project also runs various other Community Engagement Projects relating to community healthcare and inequalities, so do sign up if you're interested in being involved!

You can also sign up to our bulletin by emailing info@clareproject.org.uk any time.

9. Where can I find more support right now?

The Clare Project is open to anyone from the community, including those exploring gender identity and/or with experiences of variations in sex characteristics. We have been running a community-led and centered space for 21 years, and work in partnership with other local groups such as Hastings & Rother Rainbow Alliance and Switchboard.

You can find more information about what we do, some fantastic community-written resources and contact details on our website. You can also contact us at info@clareproject.org.uk or call and leave a message on 07464229395 any time. You can also find links to other local services in our Welcome Booklet on the resources page.

We are based in Brighton & East Sussex but welcome anyone aged 18+ from across Sussex. Our services are currently running both online and

in person, and are free to attend. If you are based outside of Sussex, you can still get in touch and we will try our best to signpost you.

10. Where does my feedback and data go?

After the survey closes, all of your feedback is consolidated into a report written by The Clare Project workers. This is then formatted into a summary, a written report that also includes some numbers/data/statistics, and recommendations relating to the GIC itself. We will also include recommendations for future engagement channels/ideas.

Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust and will then use this feedback in their business case proposal to NHS England to apply for further stages of consultation and/or engagement. Once published and agreed, the report will be publicly available on our website.

There will be no personal data (e.g. email addresses, names, phone numbers etc.) included on this report. We will ensure all written feedback given in the survey is entirely anonymised and unidentifiable to individuals.

Any contact details from the last page will only be held by The Clare Project in line with GDPR guidelines, and we will not give your details to any third parties. Any anti-trans or hate-related input will be consolidated and reported as appropriate.