### Did you know...?

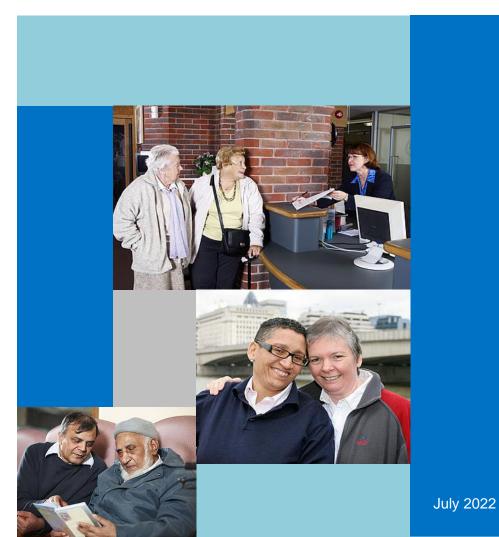
- ...'disability' includes mental health conditions as well as physical conditions.
- ...the Equality Act 2010 describes 'gender reassignment' as a protected characteristic. In our form, we use the term 'transgender'.
- ...the law changed in 2014 and so now 'marriage' refers to both same-sex and opposite sex marriages.
- ...if you are in a civil partnership, you can tick the 'Married/Civil Partnership' box. That way, you don't have to tell us your sexual orientation if you don't want to!
- ...'ethnic group' includes race, colour, nationality and/or ethnic origins.
- ...'religion' doesn't just include faith but also includes philosophical, spiritual beliefs or no beliefs at all.

## the law changed in 2014 a

# **NHS** Somerset

### **Why We Gather Data**

Information for patients and carers: equality monitoring



This leaflet can be provided in other formats or languages by phoning 01935 381933 You deserve an NHS that is centred around your individual needs as a patient. This is exactly what we want to provide. It makes it easier for us to do this if we know a little bit more about you. So we have sent you a form asking you for some personal information.

It is completely up to you whether you choose to give us information about yourself. We know it isn't easy to describe yourself by ticking boxes but you may feel that there are some answers you are happy and able to give.

**Some of the questions might seem strange**. The Equality Act 2010 tells us the areas of your life where it is particularly important that we treat you fairly. These are the areas we ask you questions about. Below are the characteristics that are protected under The Equality Act.



**Your information is safe**. We won't pass on information that you give us using the monitoring form unless we have your permission to do so. The law tells us we must protect any personal information you give us.

Your information is very helpful. The information gives us a picture of who is using our services and who is, or is not, contacting us. This helps us improve the way we communicate and we can adapt the way we do things to meet your needs.

You might have more questions. If you have more questions or comments then please get in contact so we can talk with you more. If you have different communication needs due to a disability or because you speak a different language then let us know.

#### This is how you can contact us:



#### Write to us:

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