

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

NICE guidelines

Equality impact assessment

Alcohol: school based interventions

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

1.0 Scope: before consultation (to be completed by the developer and submitted with the draft scope for consultation).

1.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the development of the draft scope, before consultation, and, if so, what are they?

(Please specify if the issue has been highlighted by a stakeholder)

1. The scope of this guideline focuses on alcohol interventions in a range of school settings. It covers universal and targeted interventions for children and young people aged 11 to 18 and 18 to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities in full time education.

2. One or more of the following factors are common among children and young people who use drugs of any sort, including alcohol:

- Drug or alcohol misuse by parents or older siblings.
- Family conflict or poor and inconsistent parenting.
- Poor school attendance and poor educational attainment.
- Pre-existing behavioural problems.
- Living with a single or step-parent, being looked after or homeless.

3. Potential equality issues identified in the scope include the impact of alcohol use according to characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion and belief, looked after children and socio-

economic status.

4. Age: The scope covers children and young people aged 11 to 18 (with an age extension of 18 to 25 for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in full time education).
5. There is no recommended level of safe drinking for children and young people. However the range of adverse outcomes that children and young people risk when drinking alcohol is substantial and includes not only risks from disease, but also injury, poisoning, violence, depression and damage to the developmental process, especially in those who drink heavily.
6. No evidence relating to other characteristics (disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief and sex/sexual orientation) was identified in the scoping phase.
7. Although no evidence was identified, there are potential equality issues with respect to particular groups, such as refugees and asylum seekers, migrants, looked-after children and homeless people.
8. Fluency in English in the child, carers and relatives is likely to be a significant factor when delivering the interventions.

1.2 What is the preliminary view on the extent to which these potential equality issues need addressing by the Committee? For example, if population groups, treatments or settings are excluded from the scope, are these exclusions justified – that is, are the reasons legitimate and the exclusion proportionate?

This guideline will focus on children and young people aged 11 to 18 and 18 to 25 for those with special education needs or disabilities in full time education. The pre-scoping workshop considered the age range of 5 to 18 too broad particularly in relation to type of outcome measured in preadolescents compared to adolescents. Primary school children were excluded from the scope as alcohol specific

interventions are usually targeted at adolescents and therefore alcohol specific outcomes are not likely to be reported in the literature for this age group. Also, the sorts of interventions for the age group under discussion are likely to focus on encouraging resilience that would impact on a range of health outcomes, rather than alcohol alone.

The scope is clear that the committee will need to consider if and how the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions vary for different groups and any adverse or unintended effects.

While children under 11 have been excluded the needs of this group may be more appropriately addressed in an update of another NICE guideline.

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