

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NICE guidelines

Children and young people with disabilities and severe complex needs: integrated health and social care support and service guidance

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

1.0 Checking for updates and scope: before scope 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 check for an update or during development of the draft scope, and, if so, what are they?

This guideline is intrinsically focused on children and young people with severe complex needs characterised by having a disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and severe complex needs. Severe complex needs refers to an ongoing requirement for integrated health and social care support and services.

The guideline will consider inequalities related to physical disabilities, cognitive impairment, behavioural and social communication disorders (such as autism spectrum disorder), learning disabilities and sensory impairment. Additionally, the following protected characteristics may be relevant for this guideline:

- having a long-term mental health condition
- having an 'invisible' disability (where the disability or impairment is not immediately apparent), for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- being less able to communicate verbally
- race, religion or belief (these might be associated with particular attitudes (positive or negative) or sensitivities towards disability).

Ensuring equality of access to health and social care and services for these children

and young people is a key driver for developing the guideline, as are informing the children and young people about care and involving them in planning their care.

The following additional characteristics associated with vulnerability, and possibly stigma, may be relevant for this guideline:

- looked-after children status
- homelessness
- traveller status
- English not being the first language
- having poor literacy
- being in a family with a low income
- living in a rural area
- not attending school
- child abuse and neglect.

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?

The population groups to be included in the guideline include children and young people with disabilities and severe complex needs and their families and carers, taking into account cultural and religious diversity. The guideline will not cover children and young people with disabilities who do not have ongoing severe complex needs. However, this group is at reduced risk of the potential inequalities that are relevant for this guideline.

The guideline will cover broad aspects of the integration of health and social care for children and young people with disabilities and severe complex needs, in terms of care for the individual child or young person, working with and supporting their families and carers, and guidance for service delivery and organisation. As such there are no specific exclusions in terms of interventions that are relevant for the people who are the focus of the guideline.

All settings in which health and social care is provided for children and young people with disabilities and severe complex needs will be included in this guideline, including educational settings. As such there are no exclusions in terms of settings. The scope also includes consideration of social and leisure activities and preparation for employment.

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Completed by Developer: Moira Mugglestone

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Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

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