

Putting NICE guidance into practice

Resource impact report: Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities (NG44)

Published: March 2016

1 Introduction

1.1 This report looks at the resource impact of implementing NICE's guideline on [community engagement](#) in England.

1.2 Community engagement is primarily carried out by Local Authorities, with support from Public Health England, NHS England, and clinical commissioning groups. Input will also be provided by primary and community care services, and the wider public, private, community, and voluntary sectors..

2 Recommendations with potential resource impact

2.1 We do not expect the guideline on community engagement to have a significant resource impact because any cost is likely to be offset by savings and benefits to the public sector as a whole.

2.2 Resource impact may vary depending on local circumstances and organisations are encouraged to undertake local assessments. The recommendation that we consider may have the greatest resource impact and needs to be considered locally is:

- Plan to ensure the resources needed for community engagement are available ([part of recommendation 1.4.1](#)).

2.3 The implementation section gives information on identifying the resources needed and lists the following as areas where costs may be incurred by statutory organisations and their partners:

- providing specific time, resources and support for staff involved in health and wellbeing initiatives
- recruitment, learning and training, ongoing support, development opportunities and supervision of volunteers
- reimbursing volunteers' expenses.

- 2.4 The [health economics work](#) identified benefits from the use of volunteers and other staff which may contribute to the costs of community engagement identified above.
- 2.5 Specifically in relation to volunteers, this was supported by a Cabinet Office report, [Volunteering in the public services: health and social care](#) which estimates that for each £1 of investment in volunteer support, small voluntary organisations gained between £2 and £8 of value from their involvement.
- 2.6 The guideline highlights that local authorities and health bodies have a statutory responsibility to carry out community engagement work and are already incurring costs for this. Implementing NICE's recommendations will not necessarily incur additional costs, but may mean using existing resources in a different way.
- 2.7 Implementing NICE's guideline may result in a range of health benefits and savings. These include improved cancer awareness, improved mental wellbeing, increased breastfeeding rates, reduced postnatal depression and reduced childhood accidents. The costs, savings and benefits of community engagement may be incurred in separate sectors and organisations, but the public sector system as a whole is anticipated to benefit.

About this resource impact report

This resource impact report accompanies the NICE guideline on [community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities](#) and should be read in conjunction with it. See [terms and conditions](#) on the NICE website.

This report is written in the following context

This report represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available data and through consulting healthcare professionals. The report is an implementation tool and focuses on the recommendations that were considered to have a significant impact on national resource use.

Assumptions used in the report are based on assessment of the national average. Local practice may be different from this, and the impact should be estimated locally.

Implementation of the guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Nothing in this resource impact product should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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