# NICE/SCIE GUIDANCE
## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### 8th Meeting of the Programme Development Group

**Thursday 10th September 2009**

**Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, London**

| **Attendees:** | *Programme Development Group (PDG) Members:* Dennis Simpson, Sue Wressell, Janet Rich, Sophie Boswell, Helen Mason, Efem Johnson, Carol Green, Helen Chambers, Caroline Cuckston, Jade Blake, Gina Gardiner, Geoffrey Skinner, Sarah Byford, Douglas Simkiss, Delma Hughes, Kim Golding, Colin Thompson, Valerie King, Rhian Stone, Susan Lane.  
*Cooptees:* John Kemmis (Voice), Wendy Banks (Voice).  
*Expert witnesses:*  
**SCIE:** Mary Sainsbury, Sheila Fish.  
**NICE:** Simon Ellis, Catherine Swann, Sarah Dunsdon, Alastair Fischer, Peter Shearn, Linda Sheppard.  
*Review teams and contractors:* Alejandra Duenas, Lisa Hewitt-Craft, David Derbyshire, Juliet Rammage. |
| **Apologies:** | *PDG Members:* Jayne Ludlam, Kim Bown, Paula Conway, Sue Revell, Harriet Ward, Mandy de Waal.  
*SCIE:* Amanda Edwards  
*Review teams:* |

<p>| <strong>Authors</strong> | Sarah Dunsdon, Simon Ellis |
| <strong>File Ref</strong> | LAC 8 Final minutes for website |
| <strong>Version</strong> | LAC 8 Final minutes for website |
| <strong>Audience</strong> | PDG members, NICE team, the public (via web publication) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action</th>
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| 1. Welcome, Introductions and focus of the Meeting                  | The Chair welcomed the group to 8<sup>th</sup> PDG meeting and outlined the objectives of the day:  
  - To agree the approach to health economics  
  - To hear presentations from PDG members related to ‘siblings in care’ and ‘children with complex needs’  
  - To consider the final report of the practice survey  
  - To hear expert testimony from colleagues at VOICE about ‘participatory approaches to involving looked after children and young people’  
  - To consider the preliminary draft guidance |
| 2. Declarations of interests                                        | The following interests have been declared for the programme:  
  **Personal pecuniary interest**  
  Susan Lane  
  Kim Golding  
  Paula Conway*  
  **Personal family interest**  
  None  
  **Non-personal pecuniary interest**  
  Harriet Ward*  
  Paula Conway*  
  Roy Jones (review team)*  
  Mary Sainsbury  
  Colin Thompson  
  **Personal non-pecuniary interest**  
  Sarah Byford  
  Kim Golding  
  Paula Conway*  
  Janet Rich  
  *did not attend this meeting  
  *Colin Thompson and Mary Sainsbury both made an additional declaration of interest stating that they are on the management committee of Voice.  
  The Chair judged that none of these represented a conflict of interest and so everyone could take full part in the meeting. |
| 3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising                  | The minutes were agreed with the following amendment:  
  - Sue Lane rather than Sue Wressell was looking at the issue of LAC data for building into considerations / research recommendations. |
### Matters arising:
- All action points were completed or have been scheduled for discussion at the meeting.

### Actions outstanding:
- It was reported that the NICE / SCIE team have discussed the Integrated Children’s System (ICS) and will be making contact with the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) about the timelines for revising the system.

### 4. Health economics – PDG to agree approach

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sarah Byford proposed a cost consequence approach to the economic analysis. This involves:</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Locating cost and outcome data</td>
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<td>- Making decisions when data suggests a service generates benefits but saves money</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Where there are gaps in data, the committee discusses / makes informed choice</td>
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<td>- If uncertainty remains, data is modelled</td>
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A discussion followed on how the consequences are defined and how the recommendations are costed. It was agreed that the focus should be on a range of appropriate short, medium and long-term outcomes and the links to health related quality of life should be made if possible.

NICE confirmed that a cost consequence approach to health economics is congruent with NICE public health methods.

**Action point:** Sarah’s presentation to be circulated to the PDG.

**Action point:** NICE to pull together cost and effect data for some of the recommendations, so that the PDG can have a structured discussion at the next meeting.

### 5. Siblings in care and Children with complex needs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Delma Hughes gave a presentation on siblings in care and the programme ‘siblings together’.</th>
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<td>Discussions followed on:</td>
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<td>- quality of relationships</td>
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<td>- placement stability</td>
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<td>- maintaining contact, not necessarily co-placement</td>
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<td>- useful role of residential care</td>
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Janet Rich gave a presentation on children with complex needs in residential care.

Discussions followed on:
- labelling and medicalising behaviour, misdiagnoses
- false dichotomy between residential and foster care
6. Practice survey

The team from Action for Children presented the findings from phase 2 of the practice survey.

A discussion followed around:
- Relationships between looked after children and social workers
- Age range of children in survey and the difference in feedback with younger people
- Important role of the foster carer in maintaining links with birth families
- Social pedagogy and building relationships with looked after children

The Chair updated the group about the work of the social work task force.

7. Participatory approaches to involving looked after children and young people in the design and delivery of services

John Kemmis and Wendy Banks gave a presentation about the work of VOICE and the importance of advocacy. The principles of participation were outlined and the methods for involvement were discussed.

The PDG asked questions around:
- The role of new media in ascertaining the views of young people
- Using care experienced young people to undertake research and training with other looked after children
- Health of looked after children, especially nutrition
- Different types of (independent) advocacy
- The role of the Independent Social Worker (IRO)
- Evaluation of projects
- Changing culture

8. Considering the preliminary draft guidance

Linda Sheppard outlined the process for producing the first draft of guidance. A discussion followed on the best way forward for the further refinement of the recommendations.

It was agreed that a sub-group of the PDG should be established to:
- identify the main themes under which the recommendations could be grouped
- suggest some priority recommendations within each theme/grouping
- begin to identify those recommendations (or parts of recommendations) which are more aspirational and might be better placed elsewhere in the guidance

The recommendations would then be revised by the PDG at next
meeting on 7th and 8th October 2009.

**Action:** NICE / SCIE to organise a sub-group meeting to conduct some further work on the recommendations.

**Action:** NICE / SCIE to link the recommendations to the evidence.

| 9. Any Other Business | No other items. |