

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Review decision: January 2014

Consideration of an update of the guideline on promoting quality of life of looked after children and young people (PH28)

1 Background information

Issue date: September 2010

Produced jointly by NICE and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

3 year review: October 2013

The current guideline can be found at: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH28>

Since publication in 2010 there have been a number of related products and activities undertaken by NICE:

1.1 NICE quality standard

In April this year, NICE published the social care quality standard [QS31](#), based on PH28.

The work to develop the quality standard involved reviewing the evidence base of the original guideline, convening a Topic Expert Group (TEG) and consulting with stakeholders.

Four members of the original Programme Development Group for PH28 were recruited to the TEG to assist in the development of the quality standard. Stakeholders who had registered and commented on PH28 were also invited to register their interest in the quality standard.

As the quality standard was based on PH28, members of the original technical teams were available to support its development.

At the time of publication of the quality standard, no new relevant evidence was identified, or provided by stakeholders, that would substantially change the recommendations in PH28.

1.2 NICE Pathway

In September 2012, work began to transpose the recommendations in PH28 to the [NICE Pathway](#). The NICE editing team and CPH identified some changes to several organisations and resources referred to in the recommendations. A number of factual amendments were made to PH28 and the Pathway, and passed to quality standards team. The Pathway was published in April this year, at the same time as the quality standard.

1.3 Ofsted – Inspection Framework for Looked After Children

In September 2013, Ofsted has published its [single framework for inspecting local authority services for vulnerable children](#). Effective from November this year, the framework examines help, protection and care from the time it is first needed until a young person who is looked after has been successfully helped to start their lives as a young adult. The inspection is universal and will be conducted in a three-year cycle.

It is evident the same elements indicating good quality care are still common across the PH28 guideline, the quality standard QS31 and the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

1.4 Local Government Briefing

The Centre for Public Health is soon to begin work on a [Local Government Briefing](#) based on PH28. This will cross reference to the NICE pathway, the quality standard and the framework by Ofsted as it becomes available.

2 Process for updating guidelines

Public health guidelines are reviewed 3 years after publication to determine whether all or part of it should be updated (see process manual for further details: <http://publications.nice.org.uk/the-nice-public-health-guidance-development-process-third-edition-pmg5/updates-public-health-guidance>)

The process is as follows:

- NICE convenes an expert panel to consider whether any new evidence or significant changes in policy and practice would be likely to lead to substantively different recommendations. However, on this occasion, NICE decided not to convene an expert group because of the recent involvement of experts and stakeholders in developing the quality standard QS31. This variation to process was approved by Guidance Executive at its meeting on 30 July 2013.
- NICE consults with stakeholders on its proposal.
- NICE may amend its proposal, in light of feedback from stakeholder consultation.
- NICE determines where any update fits within its work programme, alongside other priorities.

3 Consideration of evidence and practice

Expert advice to CPH suggests there is no new evidence available at this time that would substantially alter the current recommendations in the guideline and the related quality standard. Therefore, it is not necessary to conduct a comprehensive review of the evidence base that supported the original guideline recommendations.

However, given the extent of recent changes in the organisational control and responsibility for local authorities and children's services, it was suggested

that we complete a factual amendment of the guideline to align with these changes.

4 Stakeholder consultation

NICE sought the views of stakeholders on the proposal that a factual amendment of PH28 is conducted as soon as possible, to address the changes in policies and structures since the guideline was produced. NICE did not propose to review any evidence or change the substance of the original guideline recommendations at this time.

The proposal stated that NICE did not anticipate the factual amendment would affect the content of the statements within the quality standard. The quality standard provides statement definitions and a range of supporting information, including signposting to regulations and policy. Depending on the factual update, this information will need to be assessed to establish if a revision to the quality standard is required.

The proposal recommended that the guideline would be reviewed again in October 2016 and noted that the quality standard is due to be reviewed in April 2018.

Registered stakeholders were invited to comment on the proposal during a 2 week consultation in October 2013. Eleven stakeholder organisations responded, including the Department of Health, Department for Education, Ofsted and Public Health England. All of them agreed with the proposal to defer the review for a further 3 years and meanwhile to undertake a factual amendment of the guideline.

5 Equality and diversity considerations

No equality issues were identified which were considered relevant to this update review.

6 Recommendation

Defer the guideline review for a further 3 years.

Undertake a factual amendment of the guideline to address changes in relevant policies, organisations and delivery structures.

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