

## **NICE quality standard for the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people: information for the public**

The NICE quality standard for the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people sets out how high-quality services should be organised and what high-quality social care should include, so that the best care can be offered to looked-after children and young people using social care services in England.

The quality standard for the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people is made up of 8 statements that describe high-quality care for looked-after children and young people. These statements are summarised below.

1. Looked-after children and young people experience warm, nurturing care.
2. Looked-after children and young people are supported by a team, including their carer, who work together to meet their needs, sharing relevant information effectively and appropriately.
3. Looked-after children and young people live in placements that take account of their needs and preferences, and understand how and why decisions about placement changes are made.
4. Looked-after children and young people are offered ongoing opportunities to explore and make sense of their identity, and are supported to maintain contact with people they value, if this is desired and in their best interests.
5. Looked-after children and young people have access to specialist and dedicated services within agreed timescales.

6. Looked-after children and young people continue to receive services they need and remain in contact with key professionals if they are moved across local authority or health boundaries.

7. Looked-after children and young people are supported to develop and fulfil their potential by those working with and caring for them.

8. Young people leaving care have a pathway plan that prepares them for leaving care and have continued access to and support from services to ensure that they move to independence at their own pace.

## **Information from NICE about the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people**

The full quality standard for the health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people, written for commissioners, social care practitioners, providers of social care, service users and carers is available from [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS31](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS31).

NICE and the Social Care Institute for Excellence has produced detailed guidance on looked-after children and young people, available from [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH28](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH28). The guidance was used to develop this quality standard.

### **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence**

Level 1A, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BT; [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

© National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2013. All rights reserved. This material may be freely reproduced for educational and not-for-profit purposes. No reproduction by or for commercial organisations, or for commercial purposes, is allowed without the express written permission of NICE.