

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Anne Kilgallen

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG44) 31/16

**Subject: NICE (Public Health) Guideline NG44 -
Community engagement: improving health and
wellbeing and reducing health inequalities**

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

All HSC Board Directors – for cascade to relevant staff

Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board – **for cascade to:**

Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**

Director of Public Health and Medical Director – for cascade
to relevant staff
Director of Nursing and AHPs – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant
staff
Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads
Directors of Social Services – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Finance – for cascade to relevant staff
AHP Leads – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority – **for
cascade to:** relevant independent healthcare establishments

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chair of RQIA
NICE Implementation Facilitator NI
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents: This guideline covers community
engagement approaches to reduce health inequalities, ensure health
and wellbeing initiatives are effective and help local authorities and
health bodies meet their statutory obligations.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed
to:

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Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG44) 31/16

Date of Issue: 28 April 2016

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 37/15

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

As per circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

Dear Colleagues

NICE Public Health Guideline NG44 - Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng44>

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland. Effective engagement with communities is at the heart of *Making Life Better*, the strategic framework for improving public health and well-being. Since the previous NICE guideline was published in 2008, there has been a considerable increase in the evidence on how community engagement can improve health and well-being. This guideline is timely and highly relevant.

Decision:

All recommendations in Guideline NG44 - Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities - are to be taken into account in designing and delivering services that may help reduce health inequalities, ensure health and wellbeing initiatives are effective and help local authorities and health bodies meet their statutory obligations.

No recommendations are highlighted for particular consideration in designing and delivering services that may help reduce health inequalities, ensure health and wellbeing initiatives are effective and help local authorities and health bodies meet their statutory obligations, since all are equally relevant.

No formal monitoring or assurance is necessary in respect of any recommendation.

Action Required:

As outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15, only those pieces of guidance or specific recommendations determined for implementation require formal monitoring and assurance. Where guidance or recommendations are for noting or highlighted for particular attention, no formal monitoring or assurance is necessary, but organisations may be required to demonstrate how they have taken account of the guidance in planning and delivering services.

In accordance with the process outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15 the following initial actions should be taken:

1. HSCB/PHA
 - a. Identify a Professional Lead who will consider the commissioning implications of the Public Health Guideline and co-ordinate with any other relevant commissioning teams. This Lead, liaising with others in the HSC Board / PHA, will consider the plans received from the HSC Trusts **in regards to those pieces of guidance or specific recommendations where implementation is required** (within 2 months of receipt) as well as any complex issues they may have highlighted. They will identify any areas where regional planning / investment / commissioning are required, or where there is material risk to safety or quality. These will then be actioned immediately through normal commissioning arrangements or through bespoke arrangements reflecting the nature of the issue / risk.
 - b. The PHA will identify other relevant stakeholders and networks and disseminate as appropriate, typically within two weeks of receipt.

- c. The HSC Board will ensure that relevant guidance is sent to the appropriate Family Practitioners.
2. HSC Trusts
 - a. Proceed with targeted dissemination, agree a clinical/management lead to coordinate implementation and consider what has to be done to achieve implementation using a risk based assessment and baseline review as appropriate to support planning. These initial actions should be undertaken within a three month period.
 3. RQIA
 - a. Disseminate the Guideline to the independent sector as appropriate.
 4. HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs
 - a. Take account of this Guideline in training and other developments as appropriate.

To inform the planning process, please find attached at Annex A details from the Departmental review. You should consider and take account of other relevant policies and strategies in your planning, as well as any legislative / policy caveats identified in the course of the Departmental review.

The detailed arrangements for implementation, monitoring and assurance can be found in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15 (<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/safety-quality-and-standards-circulars-2015-2016>).

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website (<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/safety-quality-and-standards-circulars-2015-2016>).



Dr Anne Kilgallen
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Public Health Guideline – NG44 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng44
Title	Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline covers community engagement approaches to reduce health inequalities, ensure health and wellbeing initiatives are effective and help local authorities and health bodies meet their statutory obligations.</p> <p>It covers recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overarching principles of good practice – what makes engagement more effective? • developing collaborations and partnerships approaches to encourage and support alliances between community members and statutory, community and voluntary organisations to meet local needs and priorities • involving people in peer and lay roles – how to identify and recruit people to represent local needs and priorities • making community engagement an integral part of health and wellbeing initiatives • making it as easy as possible for people to get involved
Related strategically relevant policies	<p>Making Life Better - A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health and supporting strategies</p> <p>https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/public-health-policy-and-advice/making-life-better-whole-system-strategic-framework-public</p>
Inter-Departmental interest	None at policy/ legislative level
Legislative / policy caveats	<p>This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.</p>