

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Anne Kilgallen

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG55) 1/17

Subject: NICE Public Health Guideline NG55 - Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people

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 children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences. It aims to ensure these problems don't escalate and possibly lead to them being charged with a sexual offence. It also aims to ensure no-one is unnecessarily referred to specialist services.

Enquiries:

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

Quality Regulation and Improvement Unit
Department of Health
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG55) 1/17

Date of Issue: 05 January 2017

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Superseded documents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.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

Dear Colleagues

NICE Public Health Guideline NG55 - Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng55>

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland.

Decision:

Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3 – 1.8 in guideline NG55 - Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people are to be taken into account in designing and delivering services for children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences.

Recommendation 1.2 is highlighted for particular consideration in designing and delivering services for children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences.

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 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 (<https://www.health-ni.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.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Kilgallen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr Anne Kilgallen
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Public Health Guideline – NG55 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng55
Title	Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline covers children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences. It aims to ensure these problems don't escalate and possibly lead to them being charged with a sexual offence. It also aims to ensure no-one is unnecessarily referred to specialist services.</p> <p>It includes recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi-agency approach and universal services • early help assessment • risk assessment for children and young people referred to harmful sexual behaviour services • engaging with families and carers before an intervention begins • developing and managing a care plan for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour • developing interventions for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour • supporting a return to the community for 'accommodated' children and young people <p><u>This guideline does not discuss people who have experienced sexual abuse.</u></p>
Related strategically relevant policies	<p>Making Life Better - A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health and supporting strategies https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/public-health-policy-and-advice/making-life-better-whole-system-strategic-framework-public</p> <p>The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2008/1769/contents</p>
Inter-Departmental interest	None at policy/ legislative level

<p>Legislative / policy caveats</p>	<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> <p>This guidance refers to the <i>Children Act 1989</i> and the <i>Children Act 2004</i>. In Northern Ireland, the <i>Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</i> is the principle statute governing the care, upbringing and protection of children. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1995/755/contents</p> <p>This guidance refers to the Department for Education's (HM Government: England) <i>Working together to safeguard children</i>. The equivalent document in Northern Ireland is <i>Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2016)</i>. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland</p> <p>This guidance refers to Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). In Northern Ireland, a similar function is carried out by the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI), which is a multi-disciplinary interagency partnership body, chaired independently from its members. Its objective is to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body represented on the SBNI for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.</p> <p>Guidance for action regarding a concern about the safety or welfare of a child or young person is contained in the <i>Regional Child Protection Policy and Procedural Guidance 2005</i>. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/acpregonalstrategy.pdf</p> <p>The Guidance is currently being reviewed by the SBNI to ensure compliance with <i>Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016</i>, the overarching policy framework for safeguarding children and young people in the statutory, private, independent, community, voluntary and faith sectors. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland</p>
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	<p>This guidance refers to 'Early Help Assessment'. The equivalent process in Northern Ireland is an Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment. Guidance available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/understanding-needs-children-northern-ireland-unocini-guidance</p> <p>Only Section 94 and part 7 of the <i>Children and Families Act 2014</i> apply to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Policies and procedures for children in need of protection in Northern Ireland are set out in the <i>Area Child Protection Committees policy and procedures</i> currently in process of being updated to reflect <i>Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2016)</i>. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/area-child-protection-committees-regional-policy-and-procedures</p> <p>This guidance refers to some NICE Public Health Guidance which pre-dates the introduction of the DoH process for endorsing Public Health guidelines. All Public Health Guidance endorsed by DoH can be found at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-public-health-guidance</p> <p>This guidance makes reference to Social Care guidance which has not been endorsed by the Department.</p>
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NICE NG55 - Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people

Recommendation		Endorsed for:
1.1	Multi-agency approach	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.2	Named safeguarding leads in universal services	Highlighting for particular attention.
1.3	Early help assessment	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.4	Risk assessment for children and young people referred to harmful sexual behaviour services	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.5	Engaging with families and carers before an intervention begins	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.6	Developing and managing a care plan for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.7	Developing interventions for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.
1.8	Supporting a return to the community for 'accommodated' children and young people	Taking account of in designing or delivering services.