



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE**

**Consultation on guideline and quality standard topics relevant to  
social care**

***Purpose***

1. This document describes potential guideline and quality standard topics relevant to social care for consultation. These topics will form the basis of the social care work programme for NICE. It contains:
  - background to the consultation.
  - an overview of NICE quality standards and guidelines.
  - a list of previous referrals relevant to social care.
  - a list of the proposed new topics relevant to social care.
  - a list of questions for consultation.
  - further details about the proposed topics (appendix A).

***Background***

2. The [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#) set out a responsibility for NICE to develop quality standards and guidelines for social care in England. In 2013 the Department of Health ran a [consultation](#) to identify social care topics suitable for developing into NICE guidelines and quality standards. An initial set of topics has been referred by the Department of Health (DH) and Department for Education (DfE).
3. In order to develop the longer term NICE social care work programme and improve care, the DH and NICE now want to hear from stakeholders to help decide on potential additional topics. This will inform the quality standards programme and where there are no existing relevant guidelines, this topic list will also inform the development of future guidelines.
4. NICE quality standards and guidelines cover all sectors of care, including public health, healthcare and social care. Although some quality standards and guidelines cover only one sector of care, others overlap, and this is considered during development of the quality standard or guideline. Many healthcare and public health topics will therefore be relevant to the social care sector and the [full](#)

[list of quality standard topics](#) will be of interest. Key topics relevant to social care are also listed in paragraph 10 of this document.

### ***NICE quality standards and guidelines***

5. **NICE quality standards** are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care. They are derived from the best available evidence such as NICE guidance and other evidence sources accredited by NICE. Quality standards sit alongside and complement guidelines.
6. **NICE guidelines** are systematically developed statements based on the best available evidence, and include recommendations intended to guide decisions. The primary role of NICE guidelines is to provide recommendations on "what works" in terms of both the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of care interventions and services.
7. NICE guidelines and quality standards for social care may cover, where there is evidence of what works, and depending on the topic:
  - interventions, services and care packages to support social care needs, including personal care and practical support
  - interventions to support people with social care needs to maintain and develop their independence
  - interventions to promote social participation
  - assistive technology (including telecare, telehealth and equipment)
  - integration and joint working between health and social care
  - identification and assessment of social care needs
  - care and support planning and review
  - access to and provision of information for service users, their carers and families
  - support to allow service users to exercise choice and control (if they wish to do so)
  - self-directed support and support for self-management of conditions
  - support for carers
  - advocacy
  - communication and information sharing
  - training, support and supervision of care staff.
8. For some topics, guidelines and quality standards may also focus on aspects of service provision, with recommendations developed primarily for service providers and commissioners. This may include:

- effectiveness of particular service models
  - timing of an intervention and referral
  - who should deliver interventions and where they should be delivered
  - access to services.
9. Usually, it is important that a published evidence base exists in order to develop guidelines, but this is not always essential as other methods such as consensus can be used. A topic will also be considered suitable for a NICE guideline if it:
- has been identified by one of NICE's commissioners
  - is aligned with national priorities
  - could affect the outcomes frameworks in healthcare, public health or social care
  - is related to a significant burden of care/illness, premature mortality or reduced quality of life.

### ***Previous referrals***

10. The following table summarises topics previously referred to NICE that are relevant to social care. The table includes the stage of development for the guideline and the quality standard. Hyperlinks are provided to the quality standards, which include details of the source guidance on which they are based. If the quality standard has not yet been published, a hyperlink is provided to the NICE guidance.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Quality standard</b>
Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Alcohol: preventing harmful alcohol use in the community	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Antisocial behaviour and conduct disorders in children and young people	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Anxiety disorders	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Autism in children, young people and adults	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Bipolar disorder in adults	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Bipolar disorder, psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people	<a href="#">Published</a> (Bipolar disorder) <a href="#">Published</a> (Psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people)	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected October 2015)
Care and support for older people with learning disabilities	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected	Not yet scheduled

Topic	Guideline	Quality standard
	October 2017)	
Challenging behaviour and learning disabilities	<a href="#">Published</a>	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected October 2015)
Child abuse and neglect: early help, recognition, assessment and response to abuse and neglect of children and young people	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2017)	Not yet scheduled
Children's attachment: attachment in children and young people who are adopted from care, in care or at high risk of going into care	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected October 2015)	Scheduled (development starts March 2016)
Contraceptive services	<a href="#">Published</a>	Scheduled (development starts October 2015)
Dementia: Supporting people with dementia and their carers in health and social care	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Depression (including with a chronic physical health problem)	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Depression in children and young people	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Domestic violence and abuse: how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively	<a href="#">Published</a>	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected February 2016)
Drug misuse prevention	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected January 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Drug use disorders	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Eating disorders	<a href="#">Update in progress</a> (publication expected April 2017)	Not yet scheduled
Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people: identifying and helping children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2016)	Not yet scheduled
HIV testing: encouraging uptake	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Home care: delivering personal care and practical support to older people living in their own homes	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2015)	In development (publication expected May 2016)
Housing: planning to improve health and wellbeing	Not yet scheduled	Not yet scheduled
Looked-after children and young people	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Managing medicines for people	<a href="#">In development</a>	Not yet scheduled

Topic	Guideline	Quality standard
receiving social care in the community	(publication expected April 2017)	
Managing medicines in care homes	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Mental wellbeing of older people in care homes	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Mental wellbeing: life course, settings and subgroups	Not yet scheduled	Not yet scheduled
Mental wellbeing of older people in care homes	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Older people: promoting mental wellbeing and independence through primary, secondary and tertiary prevention	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected November 2015)	Scheduled (development starts January 2016)
Personality disorders	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Prison population and offenders: health promotion and mental wellbeing	<a href="#">In development</a> (Physical health of people in prison) <a href="#">In development</a> (Mental health of adults in contact with the criminal justice system) (publication expected November 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Reducing sexually transmitted infections	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected January 2017)	Not yet scheduled
Self-harm	Published	<a href="#">Published</a>
Service model for people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2017)	Not yet scheduled
Service user and carer experience in social care	Scheduled (development starts January 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Severe mental illness and substance misuse (dual diagnosis) – community health and social care services	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected September 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Sexual health across the life course	Not yet scheduled	Not yet scheduled
Short term interventions for regaining independence	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected July 2017)	Not yet scheduled
Social care of older people with complex needs and multiple long-term conditions	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected October 2015)	Not yet scheduled
Suicide prevention	Not yet scheduled	Not yet scheduled

Topic	Guideline	Quality standard
Supporting decision making for people with limited mental capacity	Scheduled (development starts July 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected November 2015)	Scheduled (development starts November 2015)
Transition between inpatient mental health settings and community and care home settings	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected August 2016)	Not yet scheduled
Transition from children's to adult services	<a href="#">In development</a> (publication expected February 2016)	Scheduled (development starts February 2016)
When to suspect child maltreatment	<a href="#">Published</a>	Not yet scheduled

### ***Proposed new topics***

11. New topics have been proposed from a range of sources including the DH consultation in 2013, the NICE Social Care External Network, developers of current NICE guidelines and quality standards, and from discussions between NICE, the DH and the DfE.

12. The proposed topics are:

- Adoption in looked-after children and young people
- Assessment and care and support planning in adults
- Care and support for people with an acquired physical impairment
- Disabilities and complex needs in adults, children and young people
- Fostering in looked-after children and young people
- Maintaining independent living and preventing isolation in adults
- Nutrition in care homes
- Personal and intimate care in adults
- Safeguarding in care homes
- Short-term breaks (respite care) for people with social care needs and their carers
- Support for adults, children and young people with sensory disabilities
- Support for carers and young carers
- Support for young parents in the community
- Support in leaving care for looked-after children and young people
- Supporting children in care homes: sexual orientation and preventing sexual exploitation
- Supporting sexual identity in adults with social care needs
- Supportive approaches and physical environments in care homes
- Supportive approaches and physical environments in children's homes.

More details on these topics can be found in [appendix A](#).

### **Questions for consultation**

13. We would like stakeholders to consider the list of proposed topics in paragraph 12 and appendix A and answer the following questions:

- Should the topic be included?
- Why should the topic be included/excluded?
- What are the key areas that should be covered by the topic?
- What are the key sources of evidence for the topic?

14. Stakeholders are also asked to suggest additional topics that are not included in this document, and to answer the following questions:

- What other topics should be included?
- Why should the topic be included?
- What are the key areas that should be covered by the topic?
- What are the key sources of evidence for this topic?

15. We would also like stakeholders to consider which of the proposed and additional topics are most important, and to select:

- the 3 most important topics for children's social care.
- the 3 most important topics for adult social care.

16. A consultation form is provided for responses on the [NICE website](#). Once completed it should be returned to: [socialcaretopics@nice.org.uk](mailto:socialcaretopics@nice.org.uk) by 17:00 on Friday 9 October 2015.

### **Next steps**

17. After the consultation period, stakeholder responses will be reviewed and changes to the proposed list of topics agreed between the DH, DfE and NICE. A final list of topics will then be presented to ministers to be signed off and formally referred to NICE.

18. An annual meeting will be held with representatives of the DH, DfE and NICE to agree an annual work plan based on the final list of topics. This will include a review of the final list of topics to ensure that it remains relevant.

## Appendix A: Proposed topics in detail

Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
<p><b>Adoption in looked-after children and young people</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introducing children to the idea of adoption and becoming part of a new family</li> <li>• preparing adoptive parents for the process of adoption and receiving an adoptive child</li> <li>• matching children with prospective adoptive parents</li> <li>• supporting new and long-standing adoptive placements</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, adoption agencies, Ofsted, prospective adoptive parents, looked-after children and young people</p>	<p>Children who are adopted are a particular sub-set of looked-after children. Their pathway and experiences can be very different to those of other children and young people who are looked after by the local authority (many of whom may be looked after for only a short period of time).</p> <p>Adoption placements for children can present particular challenges for both children and adoptive parents, both at the beginning of the placement and also later on. The breakdown of adoptive placements can be particularly damaging for children. The proposed topic would provide guidance needed in this specialist area.</p>
<p><b>Assessment and care and support planning in adults</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approaches to assessment</li> <li>• supporting individuals in planning services</li> <li>• supporting individuals using personalised approaches and incorporating risk management</li> </ul> <p>There may also be scope for looking at how to deliver effective care planning for people with different types of need.</p>	<p>Local authorities, adults with social care needs, care providers, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)</p>	<p>The Care Act guidance provides details about what assessments are and what they should cover. However, the focus is on the overall requirements and the content of the care and support plan, with little detail of how to carry out effective care planning.</p>



Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
<p><b>Care and support for people with an acquired physical impairment</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to support people with an acquired physical impairment including acquired brain injuries</li> <li>• identifying needs and planning care and support with people with an acquired physical disabilities</li> <li>• specific approaches that are suitable for people with an acquired physical impairment</li> <li>• types of care and support valued by people with an acquired physical disability and their families.</li> <li>• using telecare and assistive technologies with people with acquired physical disabilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, CCGs, people with an acquired physical impairment, care providers</p>	<p>People with an acquired physical impairment and their families have specific issues. The proposed topic would focus on the non-healthcare based support that people need over the long-term, which would complement the existing guideline on head injury and the service guidance being developed for major trauma services.</p>
<p><b>Disabilities and complex needs in adults, children and young people</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how services can be best organised to support adults and children with disabilities and complex needs.</li> <li>• how services should work together</li> <li>• specific approaches that are suitable and Identifying needs and planning care and support with people with complex needs</li> <li>• types of care and support valued by people with complex needs and their families.</li> <li>• using telecare and assistive technologies with people with complex needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, CCGs, adults and children and young people with disabilities</p>	<p>Children, young people and adults with disabilities and complex needs often need a range of services and support provided across professional and organisational boundaries. The type and level of needs they have and the care and support they require can change and vary over time.</p>

Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
<p><b>Fostering in looked-after children and young people</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting new and longer-standing foster placements</li> <li>• supporting foster carers and children</li> <li>• supporting and preparing children either for a return to their parents or for a more permanent placement</li> <li>• matching children who have come into care with foster carers</li> <li>• recruiting foster carers and preparing them for the process of fostering children.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, fostering agencies, foster carers, looked-after children and young people</p>	<p>Fostering is an important activity within the childcare system. There are areas of fostering practice that would benefit from clear evidence-based guidance.</p> <p>It is vital to ensure that foster carers are well-chosen and understand their role and the full implications of fostering. They need to be prepared to provide good childcare and to be aware of and effectively address some of the additional issues that can affect children who are looked after.</p>
<p><b>Maintaining independent living and preventing isolation in adults</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying effective approaches to supporting people to live more independently</li> <li>• supporting people to have a level of independence where statutory services are not needed.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities and partner agencies, CCGs, adults with social care needs</p>	<p>Maintaining independence is a priority for adult social care, but sometimes services can be delivered in ways that are more likely to promote dependency rather than independence. Some people need a period of reablement to become more independent, while others have stable levels of confidence and ability and instead need care that enables them to live as independently as possible. Supporting people to be more independent helps reduce the demand for services.</p>
<p><b>Nutrition in care homes</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessing the nutritional needs of older people and how these can be different and how they can change</li> <li>• identifying the nutritional needs of older people in care homes</li> <li>• meeting the nutritional needs of older people in care homes.</li> </ul>	<p>Care home providers, local authorities, Care Quality Commission (CQC), CCGs, care home residents</p>	<p>Older people in care homes often have specific needs. Care homes should provide their residents with nutrition appropriate to their circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Personal and intimate care in adults</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• issues to take account of when providing intimate care</li> <li>• supporting people who receive intimate care</li> <li>• supporting carers who provide</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, CCGs, adults with social care needs</p>	<p>Providing personal care needs active consideration and practical and emotional skills and knowledge. It is often assumed that carers know how to provide effective personal care, but that is not always the case. The proposed topic would help formal and informal carers to provide personal</p>

Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
intimate care.		care more effectively.
<p><b>Safeguarding in care homes</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoiding safeguarding issues</li> <li>• identifying and addressing safeguarding issues.</li> </ul>	Care home providers, local authorities, CQC, CCGs, care home residents	People in care homes can be especially vulnerable to abuse or neglect, often because of their level of dependency. There has been an increase in the level of concern for safeguarding in care homes for adults following the inquiries into Winterbourne View and Mid-Staffordshire Hospital, and from widespread concerns within the care sector.
<p><b>Short-term breaks (respite care) for people with social care needs and their carers</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determining the need for respite care</li> <li>• planning and providing respite care for children, young people and adults.</li> </ul>	Local authorities, adults with social care needs and their carers, respite care providers	When children or adults with social care needs continue to live with their families, those caring for them may sometimes need a break from providing care. This can involve the person who is being cared for accessing services outside the home for a set period of time.
<p><b>Support for carers and young carers</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the needs of carers and young carers</li> <li>• responding to the needs of carers and young carers</li> <li>• effective ways to support carers and young carers</li> </ul>	Local authorities, carers, young carers, CCGs	<p>Under the Care Act carers have the same rights to assessments and services as the people they care for. The needs of carers can vary significantly.</p> <p>Young carers (young people who are the main carer for a member of their family, often a parent) face particular challenges in developing their own identity and interests, meeting their own needs (for example, their educational needs) and in their relationships (with the person they care for and with others).</p>
<p><b>Support for adults, children and young people with sensory disabilities</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying the needs of people with sensory disabilities</li> <li>• care and support planning for people with sensory disabilities</li> <li>• responding to the needs of people with sensory disabilities.</li> </ul>	Local authorities, CCGs, adults, children and young people with sensory disabilities	Sensory disabilities (lifelong deafness, visual impairment, dual deaf blindness and other conditions to do with loss of touch) can have a profound effect upon a person's life. People need appropriate and effective support, which can be very specialist in nature.

Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
<p><b>Support for young parents in the community</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying young parents in need of support</li> <li>assessing the needs of young parents</li> <li>responding to needs appropriately and effectively</li> <li>providing support to young parents.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities, young parents, parents of young parents</p>	<p>Although rates of teenage pregnancy continue to fall, there is a need for effective support for young parents, particularly as many of them may have been poorly cared for as children.</p>
<p><b>Support for leaving care in looked-after children and young people</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying the needs of young people leaving care</li> <li>service models to support young people leaving care</li> <li>approaches to supporting individuals leaving care.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities and their partners, young people leaving care</p>	<p>Local authorities have a statutory duty to support young people leaving care, but it is not always clear how services should be structured and organised to provide the best support. The proposed topic could help to identify effective service organisation and help to guide local authority staff and others in delivering support to young people leaving care.</p>
<p><b>Supporting children in care homes: sexual orientation and preventing sexual exploitation</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying issues of sexual identity in children's homes</li> <li>responding to issues of sexuality identity</li> <li>managing risk in this area of practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Children's home providers, local authorities, young people, Ofsted</p>	<p>Young people in children's homes often have to cope with adolescence, including issues of sexuality and intimacy, without the family support available to other young people. Difficulties with sexual identity can leave young people in care vulnerable and in danger of sexual exploitation.</p>
<p><b>Supporting sexual identity in adults with social care needs</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying and addressing issues of sexuality in care homes and the community</li> <li>approaches to take account of the sexual needs, preferences and actions of those receiving care.</li> </ul>	<p>Care providers, local authorities, CQC, CCGs, care home residents</p>	<p>Issues of sexuality, sexual identity and intimacy can be major concerns for some care home residents and people receiving care and support in the community.</p>

Title and remit	Audience	Rationale
<p><b>Supportive approaches and physical environments in care homes</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the physical layout of care homes</li> <li>• facilities available in care homes</li> <li>• the approach of the home and its staff in responding to behaviour that challenges.</li> </ul>	<p>Care home providers, local authorities, CQC, CCGs, care home residents</p>	<p>People who live in care homes are often there because of their high levels of dependency and the high levels of support they need. This can include, for example, responding to issues of violence and aggression and challenging behaviour.</p>
<p><b>Supportive approaches and physical environments in children's homes</b></p> <p>Guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the physical layout of care homes</li> <li>• facilities available in care homes</li> <li>• the approach of the home and its staff in responding to behaviour that challenges.</li> </ul>	<p>Children's home providers, local authorities, children and young people, Ofsted, virtual head teachers</p>	<p>Children and young people in care homes can find life very difficult. They need an environment where they can be supported to deal effectively with issues such as challenging behaviour and violence and aggression, while encouraging positive behaviour and achievement.</p>