

# Adults' Principal Social Workers

## Quick summary sheet

NICE supports person-centred care and support through the development of evidence-based guidelines and quality standards.

### Guidelines:

- Comprehensive set of recommendations for action
- Focused on a particular topic/setting
- Aimed at a range of audiences
- Show the underpinning evidence

### Quality standards:

- Set of statements to help improve quality
- Focused on areas of poor quality or variation in practice
- Can be used to measure improvement or demonstrate good quality

### Examples of guidance topics relevant to adults' Principal Social Workers:

People's experience in adult social care ([NG86](#) & [QS182](#))    Home care ([NG21](#) & [QS123](#))  
Decision-making and mental capacity ([NG108](#))    Hospital to home ([NG27](#) & [QS136](#))  
Community engagement ([NG44](#) & [QS148](#))    Domestic violence & abuse ([PH50](#) & [QS116](#))  
Intermediate care ([NG74](#) & [QS173](#))    Managing medicines at home ([NG67](#) & [QS171](#))  
NICE [adult social care topic page](#)

The scenarios below show how NICE guidance could be used in social work practice. We recognise that NICE guidance would be used alongside other sources of information to support professional judgement.

## Scenario 1—Developing community assets

### Situation:

Reflecting on the chief social work officer's report for 2019/20, a PSW considers how they can support strengths-based social work and promote wellbeing in their area.

### Examples of NICE guidance:

*Community engagement (QS148— statement 3)*  
& *Community engagement (NG44— recommendation 1.2.2)*

Include guidance on involving the local community to identify skills, networks and facilities using an asset-based approach.

### Action:

The PSW uses NICE guidance to highlight to their director the evidence for community engagement as a way of improving wellbeing.

This results in the creation of a local multi-partner working group to strengthen local community assets. The group use QS148 to measure and report on their progress.

## Scenario 2—Developing a culture of co-production

### Situation:

An elected member questions what level of priority should be given to co-production at a strategic level, given current pressures on the Council's budget.

The director for adult social care asks the PSW what evidence there is for the effectiveness of co-production at a policy level.

### Examples of NICE guidance:

*People's experience in adult social care (NG86— recommendation 1.1.9)*

*& Decision-making and mental capacity (NG108— recommendation 1.1.3)*

Include guidance on local authorities working with people to shape policies, staff training and information.

### Action:

The PSW develops a presentation for a council meeting, using NICE guidance.

The presentation is able to demonstrate the evidence for the effectiveness and importance of involving people in shaping their own care and support.

## Scenario 3—Implementing principles of the Mental Capacity Act

### Situation:

The Local Safeguarding Board asks each partner to evaluate how they have implemented principles from the Mental Capacity Act (MCA), in relation to capacity assessments and best interest decisions.

The PSW is asked to lead on this piece of work for the council.

### Examples of NICE guidance:

*Decision-making and mental capacity (NG108— recommendations 1.4.1, 1.4.2 & 1.5.20)*

Includes guidance promoting the value of organisations conducting local mental capacity assessment audits which include people's views and experiences. Also highlights the importance of actions from best interest decisions being implemented.

### Action:

The PSW works with the MCA lead to develop an audit to demonstrate how key principles from the Act are being implemented locally.

NICE guideline recommendations are used to develop the audit questions, as they are aligned to the Act and are based on robust evidence of good practice.

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