NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Children's Principal Social Workers
Quick summary sheet

NICE supports child-centred assessment 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 children's Principal Social Workers:

Child abuse & neglect (NG76 & QS179)

Harmful sexual behaviour children & YP (NG55)

Children's attachment (NG26 & QS133)

Looked-after children & YP (PH28 & QS31)

Antisocial behaviour & conduct disorders (CG158 & QS59)

Transition MH inpatient to community (NG53 & QS159)

Transition children's to adults' services (NG43 & QS140)

Domestic violence & abuse (PH50 & QS116)

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 a positive identity

Situation:

A local placement resource panel have asked to see evidence of how the looked-after children's team encourage children to develop their personal identity.

Examples of NICE guidance:

Looked-after children & young people (PH28—recommendation 25)

& Looked-after children & young people (QS31—statement 4)

Include a number of actions focused on life-story work, as well as broader activity to make sense of identity and relationships.

Action:

The manager asks for help from the children's PSW, who suggests using actions within the NICE recommendation to develop questions for an audit.

The audit highlights some really positive work and also some areas for making further improvement.

Scenario 2—Supported, coordinated transitions

Situation:

Parents and young people on a children's services co-production group have highlighted that there isn't always a single person coordinating support for children as they transition to adult services.

Examples of NICE guidance:

Transition from children's to adults' services (NG43—recommendations 1.1.1, 1.2.5-10)

& Transition from children's to adults' services (QS140—statement 3)

Include information about involving young people and carers in service design. Also include support for a named worker role.

Action:

The PSW is asked to work with the co-production group to review processes to ensure that a single named worker is always allocated to support transition. The PSW uses NICE guidance to ensure that the work is informed by the best available evidence.

Scenario 3—Support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Situation:

A council has been criticised for the way that it supports asylum seekers. In particular there have been instances of racist bullying at school which have appeared in the national press.

Examples of NICE guidance:

Looked-after children & young people (PH28—recommendations 9 & 10)

& Post-traumatic stress disorder (NG116— recommendation 1.3.1)

Include guidance on services being accessible for asylum-seeking children and young people, with appropriate interventions and support.

Action:

The director asks the PSW to benchmark the support provided to asylum-seeking children & young people, including links to health services.

The PSW uses NICE recommendations as part of the benchmarking standard, along with other relevant national guidance and good practice.

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