

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

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Compliance Review of NICE Quality Standard on “Preventing excess winter deaths and illness associated with cold homes”

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	10/09/18
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Christine Lawrence	
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	19/09/18

Summary:	<p>Quality Standard QS117 covers preventing excess winter deaths and health problems associated with cold homes. It includes people of all ages, and takes into account that some people are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the cold, such as people with cardiovascular or mental health conditions, young children and older people.</p> <p>This is a proposal for a review of compliance with the standard by Somerset organisations including NHS, social care, public health and housing providers.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board agrees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That a County wide review of compliance with NICE Quality Standard QS117 on cold homes should be carried out to identify any areas for improvement; and2. Requests that all relevant partner organisations participate in the review.
Reasons for recommendations:	<p>The review is proposed as a system improvement tool, aiming to identify any deficiencies in practice in the county, so that these may be addressed collectively and effectively as a health, care and housing system.</p>
Links to Somerset Health and	<p>Illness and premature death arising from cold homes is closely linked to wider issues of poverty and fuel poverty and poor</p>

Wellbeing Strategy	housing conditions, and disproportionately impacts on the elderly and those with certain health conditions, notably long term respiratory conditions.
Financial, Legal and HR Implications:	There are no implications of the review itself. The review may identify issues that require action to address and which may have resource implications, but these would be addressed at the appropriate time.
Equalities Implications:	There are no equalities implications from carrying out the review. However, fuel poverty and cold homes disproportionately impact on the elderly and those who are struggling financially, so any resulting actions are likely to be beneficial to such people.
Risk Assessment:	<i>The key risk is lack of engagement by some partners. Governance arrangements will be put in place in the form of an review group from partner organisations to oversee the project.</i>

1. Background

- 1.1. NICE published quality standard QS117¹ on "Preventing excess winter deaths and illness associated with cold homes" in March 2016. The QS is an auditable subset of the full NICE guidance, NG6², on this subject issued in March 2015. This quality standard covers preventing excess winter deaths and health problems associated with cold homes. It includes people of all ages, and takes into account that some people are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the cold, such as people with cardiovascular or mental health conditions, young children and older people. For background information see the preventing excess winter deaths topic overview³.

NICE quality standards focus on aspects of health and social care that are commissioned locally. Areas of national policy, such as winter fuel allowances, grants and energy pricing are therefore not covered by this quality standard.

There are six quality statements in the standard, as follows:

Quality statement 1: Year-round planning to identify vulnerable local populations;

Quality statement 2: Identifying people vulnerable to health problems associated with a cold home;

Quality statement 3: Single-point-of-contact health and housing referral service;

Quality statement 4: Asking people about keeping warm at home;

Quality statement 5: Identifying people vulnerable to health problems associated with cold homes on admission; and

Quality statement 6: Discharge plan

- 1.2. The proposal is to carry out a county wide review of compliance with the quality standard with a view to identifying areas for improvement, while recognising the very challenging times and constrained resources at present. The review would cover relevant commissioners and providers including NHS, Social Care, major housing providers and the voluntary sector. This would be a collaborative

process – it is a system improvement tool not a punitive exercise. The review is relevant to the outcomes frameworks for public health, social care and the NHS, and should identify actions that can be taken to improve outcomes and reduce ill health.

It is suggested that the Strategic Housing Officers Group would be the appropriate forum to take this forward, through a review sub-group, under the Strategic Housing Framework. Public Health would conduct the review with a draft audit tool available for consideration in October. Timetables permitting, we would aim to conduct the review in November, with a draft report ready by Christmas.

2. Options Considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. *Consideration was given to reviewing against the full NICE guidance rather than the quality standard. The quality standard focuses on the most important and auditable elements of the full guidance. If the review finds areas for improvement, then officers will be able to refer to the full guidance in recommending actions, and take into account other aspects of that guidance where relevant.*

3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1. This proposal has been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board Executive Group.

4. Implications

- 4.1. There will be a small resource implication for partner organisations in completing the review. However, the review may identify areas for improvement that could improve resource utilisation in future, for example by improving aspects of co-ordination, and opportunities at system level to reduce future demand on health and social care services.

5. Background papers

- 5.1.
 1. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs117>
 2. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6>
 3. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS117/documents/winter-deaths-preventing-excess-winter-deaths-qs-topic-overview>