Identify trends and changes in the specific health and wellbeing needs of a population and the effectiveness of different means of meeting their needs



Overview

This standard covers the identification of trends and changes in the specific health and wellbeing needs of a population and the effectiveness of different means of meeting those needs. The practitioner is not expected to gather and analyse primary data but will draw from information which is available, influence how data is gathered in the future and may initiate further data gathering exercises to supplement and complement the data which is available.

This process is built on a number of principles. These include equity of provision through targeting resources at those most in need, participation of the population in identifying their needs, and evaluating the effectiveness of the means of meeting those needs. Practitioners need to keep an open mind and be alert to areas where needs may be changing or where current means of meeting needs are failing to serve the requirements of some section of the population. Note that 'a population' may refer to a local or geographical area or a group of people with specific needs which can be dealt with together.

This standard applies to anyone who has the responsibility of working with others to identify and agree trends and changes in the specific health and wellbeing needs of a population, whether this be at national, regional or local level. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 identify authoritative sources which supply:
 - P1.1 information on the specific health and wellbeing needs of populations
 - P1.2 information on the factors which affect health and wellbeing
 - P1.3 information on the populations needs, issues and concerns in relation to health and wellbeing
- P2 reach agreement with stakeholders about how the population under consideration should be described and clearly distinguished from others
- P3 formulate and agree the questions which the data gathering and analysis are designed to answer, and the criteria for evaluating the data
- P4 access significant and appropriate sources and extract data which is relevant to the population under consideration
- P5 structure and analyse the data obtained to the initial questions and the criteria for evaluating the data
- P6 describe and summarise key issues emerging from the analysis
- P7 make contact with those responsible for sources where there is conflicting or insufficient data and encourage them to increase the amount of information and its validity
- P8 identify areas in need of further data gathering, together with the resources which may be available to achieve this, where the data available on the population proves insufficient for the questions which need to be answered
- P9 prioritise areas where further data needs to be gathered with stakeholders and put appropriate processes in place which are consistent with identified resource constraints
- P10 identify trends and developments in specific health and wellbeing needs relevant to the population
- P11 present any trends and developments which may necessitate a change in priorities in a suitable format and justify these to stakeholders.
- P12 reach agreement with stakeholders as to how to categorise the needs, issues and concerns of the population and how this can be related to evaluating the effectiveness of different means of meeting those needs
- P13 formulate and agree the questions which the evaluation is designed to answer, and the criteria against which the evaluation will be made
- P14 identify the nature, location and known utilisation of means by the population concerned accurately from appropriate information sources

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- P15 identify limitations and constraints on the effectiveness use and continued availability of means
- P16 realistically assess the different means of meeting the population's needs against the criteria
- P17 describe and appropriately summarise key issues emerging from the evaluation
- P18 draw conclusions from the evaluation which are valid given information and evidence available, adequately reflect consideration of all the agreed criteria and take into account relevant trends and developments
- P19 present conclusions in a suitable format for decision making
- P20 prioritise outstanding issues with stakeholders where the process fails to provide sufficient information for effective decision making, and put appropriate processes in place to resolve them

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to use electronic media to access information
- K2 how to access the data and information using manual means
- K3 the range of different data collection methods which might be used, the strengths and weaknesses of each and their use for different purposes and in different contexts
- K4 what is meant by the concepts of validity and reliability in relation to the design of data collection, its implementation and later analysis
- K5 the impact which different contexts and circumstances may have on data collection methods and how they may need to be adapted in relation to the context in which they are used
- K6 criteria for evaluating the quality of data
- K7 legal and organisational requirements related to the collection and use of data.
- K8 how to structure data during the design and implementation stages of an assessment so that it is in a form for later analysis
- K9 the range of qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods available and the purpose of each in relation to different forms of data and research questions
- K10 how to undertake the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data validly and reliably
- K11 how to develop proposals which acknowledge the competing interests of different groups and enable them to move forwards to their mutual benefit
- K12 how to select and access qualitative and quantitative information and data sources and sources of informed and interested opinion
- K13 how to decide when additional information is required and initiate additional investigations
- K14 methods of evaluating and agreeing processes for gathering further data on health and wellbeing
- K15 methods of making realistic estimate of the resources which would be needed to collect valid data on health and wellbeing
- K16 how to summarise and present information and the key issues emerging from it, in written, diagrammatic, graphic and pictorial, and audio form, and at the right level of detail for use by self and others
- K17 the purpose of involving the population in the assessment of specific health and wellbeing needs and the likely effectiveness of different

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approaches

- K18 how to present information to people in a form and at a level which is appropriate to them
- K19 the complexity of decisions which people make in relation to their health and wellbeing and the other factors which might affect this
- K20 how the effectiveness of different means can be evaluated and the relationship of this to health status and needs
- K21 the sort of evidence which one would be seeking in relation to the effectiveness of means of meeting health and wellbeing needs, the sources of such information, the quality and nature of the information available and the extent to which it might be influenced by other agendas
- K22 those sections of the population whose health and wellbeing needs have often not been well met in the past, the reasons for this and evidence of the need to tackle these issues successfully
- K23 national, local and organisational targets that may guide and structure the data collected

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Core 4 Service Improvement

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