SFHGEN116
Prioritise interventions against available resources and the needs of the population

Overview

This standard covers prioritising interventions for the delivery of health and wellbeing services for a population. The population is likely to be at regional or local level. It might include everyone in a geographical area who needs health and wellbeing services or it may be focused on the health and wellbeing services for a particular client group, such as children and adolescents, adults or the elderly.

The planning of services is based on the identification of the needs of those whom they are designed to serve and is based 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. One of the key values in this standard is the need to ensure that the population has the opportunity, and is enabled, to feed their views and concerns into the planning process.

This standard describes standards at the operational service provider level. This standard applies to anyone who has the responsibility for undertaking service planning in a provider role to meet the health and wellbeing needs of a population. 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 those individuals who have needs which would benefit from interventions from evidence of past practice

P2   develop criteria for prioritising individuals' needs which recognise the range of needs across the overall group and the effectiveness of interventions in meeting those needs

P3   ensure that the prioritisation criteria reflect national strategies and policies and acknowledge that resources are unlikely to be available to meet all identified needs

P4   evaluate current services against prioritisation criteria and determine the mix and scope of services required to meeting the prioritised needs of individuals

P5   identify the mix of skills which allow the service to be delivered effectively and in the most resource friendly way and use this to inform workforce planning

P6   evaluate current referrals to services for the extent to which they meet the prioritisation criteria and encourage effective use of the services

P7   develop referral protocols and related information which are consistent with the prioritisation criteria and enable those who refer to the service to understand the nature of what is available

P8   maintain ongoing liaison with those who refer to the service and provide them with information on changes to referral protocols and feedback on the appropriateness of their referrals

P9   disseminate prioritisation criteria and referral protocols to relevant practitioners and organisations

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1   reasoning processes around balancing risks, the assessment of individuals' needs, resource availability and service priorities

K2   how to assess the priority of needs and evaluate the likely effectiveness of interventions in meeting them

K3   methods of reviewing current services against prioritisation criteria, including the effect of change to current service provision

K4   how to assess the nature and mix of services which are required to meet the identified needs of the population

K5   methods to determine the necessary skill mix to provide agreed services

K6   the different sources from which referrals are received

K7   the roles, structure and functions of the different agencies who make referrals

K8   the different factors which have to be taken into account when evaluating referrals

K9   the reasons for inappropriate referral patterns occurring

K10   long and short term strategies for dealing with inappropriate referral patterns

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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: G5 Services and Project Management

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