

## SFHGEN52

### Research the needs of the local population for provision of health care services



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#### Overview

This standard is about carrying out formal research to identify the range and volume of healthcare services required by local populations. An accurate assessment of the local population's needs is an essential prerequisite for developing a local health care strategy and commissioning appropriate services.

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 and involve all key stakeholders in the assessment
- P2 ensure the methodology you use is capable of providing an accurate and comprehensive assessment of needs
- P3 agree with key stakeholders the target population to be covered
- P4 identify significant demographic trends within the target population
- P5 gather full and accurate information about the target population's current and likely future requirements
- P6 ensure your methods of gathering and handling information comply with ethical, legal and organisational requirements and the need for confidentiality
- P7 identify existing health care services, the extent to which they meet the target population's current and likely future needs, and any gaps in provision
- P8 consult openly with key stakeholders on the results of your analysis and incorporate their views appropriately in your recommendations
- P9 base your recommendations on a full and comprehensive assessment of the needs of the local population for health care services
- P10 clearly state any gaps in the information you have gathered and any assumptions you have made
- P11 ensure your recommendations specify the range and volume of health care services required by the population
- P12 ensure your recommendations take account of:
  - P12.1 national health care policies and priorities
  - P12.2 the diversity of the local population and the rights of individuals to equal access to health care services
- P13 ensure your recommendations are consistent with recognised good practice in commissioning and delivering health care services
- P14 present your recommendations clearly, concisely and in a format which helps commissioners agree priorities and the strategies required to meet them
- P15 provide further information and interpretation to help commissioners understand the implications of your recommendations, where required

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 methodologies that are capable of providing an accurate and comprehensive assessment of the local population's needs for health care services
- K2 how to assess the impact health care has on the target population's health and psychological condition
- K3 how to assess the impact health care has on the target population's social functioning and life context
- K4 how to assess the extent to which existing services meet the target population's current and likely future needs
- K5 how to assess gaps in the range and capacity of services to meet needs
- K6 how to analyse information you have collected
- K7 how to consult openly with the range of key stakeholders
- K8 how to write complex material clearly and concisely
- K9 how to explain complex material to improve people's understanding, both orally and in writing
- K10 how to gain consensus amongst a diverse group of stakeholders
- K11 the principle of confidentiality: what information may be given to whom
- K12 the importance of gathering full and accurate information and how to do so
- K13 the rights of individuals to equal access to health care services
- K14 legal requirements relating to the handling of information
- K15 the range of key stakeholders in the local area
- K16 the range of different target populations, their different characteristics and needs
- K17 the range of health care services available in your area of practice
- K18 national health care policies and priorities
- K19 the importance of basing recommendations on a full and comprehensive assessment, and how to do so
- K20 the importance of stating any gaps in information or assumptions made

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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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