

SFHPHS14

Assess the impact of policies and shape and influence them to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities



Overview

This standard covers influencing the development of policies and assessing the impact of policies on health and wellbeing. It is applicable at both national and 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 make a preliminary assessment of policies and identify whether they are likely to pose any significant questions for, or are clearly beneficial to, health and wellbeing
 - P2 outline clearly the possible hazards and benefits of policies and accurately identify the questions to be addressed in the assessment process
 - P3 clearly characterise:
 - P3.1 the nature and magnitude of the harmful and beneficial factors
 - P3.2 how many people will be affected by the factors
 - P3.3 the nature of their effect
 - P4 develop a risk management plan which details:
 - P4.1 how the effects of harmful factors can be minimised or negated
 - P4.2 how the effect of beneficial factors can be maximised
 - P5 present conclusions and recommendations to policy makers at a time and in a way they are likely to understand and be able to use and that:
 - P5.1 acknowledges the complexity of inter-relationships between the different factors and the difficulty of identifying simple causal relationships
 - P5.2 highlights the benefits to be gained and the risks of inaction
 - P6 re-evaluate the impact of policies on improving health and wellbeing after the policy is implemented to confirm or deny the accuracy of the initial assessment
 - P7 provide appropriate encouragement and support to others to assess the impact of policies on improving health and wellbeing
 - P8 identify the long term aims and priorities of policies and their enactment in legislation
 - P9 monitor and prioritise opportunities to influence policies for improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities
 - P10 explain clearly to policy makers orally and in writing:
 - P10.1 the advantages that improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities will bring to their agendas and objectives
 - P10.2 evidence of effective practice in policy development
 - P10.3 improvements, successes and achievements made by policy makers
 - P11 constructively tackle queries and objections to improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities in policies
 - P12 provide evidence-based advice and information on specific areas of policy:
 - P12.1 at the times policy makers can best make use of it
 - P12.2 in a form that enables them to use it readily

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- P13 maintain contact and goodwill with policy makers and encourage them to seek advice when it would benefit the population to do so
- P14 evaluate own effectiveness in influencing the policy agenda and use this to inform future practice
- P15 advocate for new policies that will effectively improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the assessment of the impact of public policy and legislation on health and wellbeing and the reduction of inequalities at local, national and global levels
- K2 the appraisal the potential contribution to improving health and wellbeing and the reduction of inequalities made by different agencies: health and other – in public, private and voluntary sectors
- K3 how an articulate population perspective can effectively change decision-making about health and wellbeing, care services or public policy
- K4 how to participate effectively in inter-agency working to achieve desired change in population health and wellbeing and policy (e.g. by preparing and presenting a paper with specific policy recommendations to a major decision making body)
- K5 how to collate and interpret advice on improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities to inform policy
- K6 how to appraise the policy implementation process and recommend improvements
- K7 how organisations' different priorities can be reconceptualised to make them consistent with policy implementation processes
- K8 how to appraise the impact of competing priorities on health and wellbeing, the reduction of inequalities and public policy and propose ways of tackling such priorities constructively
- K9 the application of presentational, marketing and influencing skills on influencing policy development
- K10 the history and development of health impact assessments, their current state of development and their relationship to environmental impact assessments
- K11 the different aspects that have to be considered when undertaking preliminary assessments and screening of policies (e.g. population analysis, context, quantitative and qualitative prognoses) and the application of these in practice
- K12 the assessment of the risks that policies may have on health (including exposures, the possible effects of the exposure on individuals, individuals' susceptibility to different agents, broad determinants of health and wellbeing such as crime and unemployment, the availability of services and resources to the population, and evidence of effectiveness in improving health and wellbeing)
- K13 the concepts of certainty and uncertainty and the impact of these on predictions about health and wellbeing, and the reasons for usually needing to use baseline assessments
- K14 the application of research knowledge and skills to the appraisal of

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- policies and the maintenance of a dispassionate view of risks and causality in the face of what may be highly emotive and political debates
- K15 application of the principles of effective oral and written communication to the presentation of conclusions and recommendations to policy makers
 - K16 how to prepare written reports and materials for, and give appropriate verbal presentations to, policy makers on health impact assessment
 - K17 appropriate responses to verbal and written enquiries about health impact assessments

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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

Level: 4

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