

TO: IICSA INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

15 August 2017

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Health sector seminar - tell us your views

Please find enclosed our submission in response to your call for views to inform planning of your upcoming health seminars and the wider work of the inquiry.

NICE produces guidance across a broad range of health and care topics. The overarching aim is to improve outcomes and quality of care for people using the NHS and other public health and social care service. We do this by producing evidence based guidance and advice for health and care practitioners and by developing quality standards and performance metrics for those who plan and provide services.

Given the broad scope of the health and care topics we work on, this submission highlights all the resources we have produced for the health and care sector that we feel will be relevant to the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

We know that the very complex and serious nature of child sexual abuse, and in particular the important role health and care practitioners can play in preventing, identifying, safeguarding and supporting those affected by it, requires a whole system response across different care settings, professions, disciplines of care and population groups. Therefore we have identified all the guidance and quality standards that we feel the inquiry should take account of in the course of its work.

NICE guidelines

NICE guidelines make evidence-based recommendations on a wide range of topics, from preventing and managing specific conditions to improving health and wellbeing in different care settings, to providing high quality social care to adults, children and young people and supporting integrated services. Our guidelines are not mandatory but offer best practice advice to provide care that is known to be effective and offer value for money.

Child abuse and neglect guideline

We are currently developing guidance on child abuse and neglect which is due to publish in autumn. The guideline aims to help people who work with children spot and stop abuse or neglect. It outlines how all practitioners working with children and young people, including those in early years, social care, health, education (including schools), the police, the voluntary and community sector, youth justice services and adult services can spot the signs of abuse or neglect and offers advice on how they should act faced with a range of differing circumstances.

The guideline is being developed by an independent committee of researchers, leading academics, health and care practitioners and service managers with frontline experience of dealing with child abuse and neglect and safeguarding issues. The committee also includes service users and carers with experience of abuse and we have worked with voluntary sector partners to ensure the voice of young people affected by abuse has been heard and included as part of the process.

Previous to this NICE published a number of guidelines covering topics that are directly related to child abuse and neglect, such as child attachment and harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people. We have also produced guidance covering issues that link to abuse and neglect on topics like social and emotional wellbeing, self-harm, depression and looked after children and young people.

Appendix 1 attached to this letter details all the guidance that is most relevant to the independent inquiry. This includes:

- Child abuse and neglect (in development)
- Sexually harmful behaviour among young people
- Children's attachment
- Domestic violence and abuse: how services can respond
- Social anxiety disorder NICE guideline
- Conduct disorders in children and young people
- Self-harm in over 8s: longer term management
- Social and emotional wellbeing: early years
- Looked after children and young people
- Bedwetting in under 19s
- Social and emotional wellbeing in secondary education
- Child maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 18s
- Social and emotional wellbeing in primary education
- Depression in children and young people

NICE quality standards

Quality standards are a set of specific, concise statements and associated measures. They set out markers of high-quality, cost-effective care, covering a wide range of health and social care topics. Derived from the best available evidence such as NICE guidance and other evidence sources accredited by NICE, they are developed independently, in collaboration with NHS and social care professionals, their partners and service users.

Those who plan and deliver care can use quality standard to ensure that high quality care is being commissioned and provided. They can also use them to highlight areas for service improvement. Quality standards are endorsed by national regulators and are increasingly informing regulatory frameworks to identify and define good quality care.

Appendix 2 details all the quality standards that will be of relevance to the IICSA inquiry. This includes:

- Children's Attachment
- Early years: promoting health and wellbeing in under 5s
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Bedwetting in children and young people

- Anxiety disorders
- Antisocial behaviour and conduct disorders in children and young people
- Selfharm
- Looked-after children and young people

In due course we will also develop a quality standard for child abuse and neglect.

To bring the cross cutting themes, recommendations and quality statements detailed in the appendices attached to this letter we have also developed an interactive flowchart on child maltreatment that contains everything we say in one place. The flowchart covers the alerting features in children and young people (under 18 years) of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and fabricated or induced illness.

You can find the flowchart here <https://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/when-to-suspect-child-maltreatment>

We hope that you find this information useful for the work of your inquiry. Should you require any further detail or have any queries, please get in touch. We would welcome the opportunity to contribute further.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Gillian Leng
Deputy Chief Executive
Executive Director Health and Social Care