

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

## NICE guidelines

### Equality impact assessment

#### **Integrated health and care for people who are homeless through being roofless**

The impact on equality has been assessed during guidance development according to the principles of the NICE equality policy.

#### **2.0 Checking for updates and scope: after consultation (to be completed by the Developer and submitted with the revised scope)**

2.1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during consultation, and, if so, what are they?

- Age

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers or squatters in the population of the guideline might disadvantage young people and people leaving care. Stakeholders also queried why families and children are excluded from the population.

- Disability

A stakeholder raised that people with acquired brain injury should be considered.

- Pregnancy and maternity

A stakeholder pointed out that as a consequence of homelessness mothers might have their babies and children taken into care.

- Race

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers or squatters in the population of the guideline might disadvantage people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

- Sex

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers in the population of the guideline might disadvantage women. The stakeholders also raised various issues in relation to women and how women who experience homelessness might differ from men who experience homelessness. It was noted that women's homelessness, in particular rough sleeping, is almost certainly undercounted and more often hidden because women's patterns of sleeping rough differ and women might avoid using services that are often geared towards men who are homeless. It was also noted that women might be in a more vulnerable position and might experience domestic violence, sexual exploitation and violence and stigmatisation to a different degree than men who experience homelessness. Stakeholders also raised that women who are sleeping rough have been found to be more likely than men to need support for mental health problems and traumatic experiences are often underlying causes for their homelessness, which may partly explain why mental health problems are more common among them. A stakeholder also noted that this might further suggest that women are more vulnerable to other forms of harm such as alcohol and drug problems as these are often closely related to trauma. Stakeholders also recognised that pregnancy can put women who are homeless in an even more vulnerable situation and noted that some women who experience homelessness have their babies or children taken into care as a consequence of homelessness.

- Sexual orientation

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers in the population of the guideline might disadvantage people from the LGBT community.

- Refugees

A stakeholder also queried if specific recommendations could be made taking into account specific needs and access issues in relation to people's migration status and ability to speak English.

- Asylum seekers

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers in the population of the guideline might disadvantage asylum seekers. A stakeholder also queried if specific recommendations could be made taking into account specific needs and access issues in relation to people's migration status and ability to speak English.

- Migrant workers

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers in the population of the guideline might disadvantage migrants. A stakeholder also queried if specific recommendations could be made taking into account specific needs and access issues in relation to people's migration status and ability to speak English.

- Prisoners and young offenders

Stakeholders raised that not including sofa surfers in the population of the guideline might disadvantage prison leavers.

Feedback from the stakeholders was overwhelmingly clear that not including sofa surfers, squatters and people in unsupported temporary accommodation would be an omission and disadvantage those experiencing 'hidden' homelessness who are already marginalised and not necessarily getting access to support. As described above, this would impact and disadvantage certain subpopulations more than others. One stakeholder noted based on comments from people with lived experience of homelessness, that there is little difference in the health needs of people who were squatting compared to those sleeping rough.

2.2 Have any changes to the scope been made as a result of consultation to highlight potential equality issues?

The guideline population was changed to include sofa surfers, squatters and those in unsupported temporary accommodation. Based on the change to the population and based on other stakeholder comments the 'Why this guideline is needed' section was revised.

Regarding the stakeholder comment about people with acquired brain injury. We had referred to this in the previous equality impact assessment under "disability" where we wrote "Factors relating to homelessness, such as prolonged substance misuse might also be a cause for cognitive impairment or other disability.", however, we recognise this was not expressed clearly enough and we explicitly want to acknowledge that people with acquired brain injury may be more likely to become homeless and when homeless, they may be particularly disadvantaged because of their injury.

A lay member of the committee also pointed out that the preferred wording is 'disabled people' instead of 'people with disabilities'.

2.3 Have any of the changes made led to a change in the primary focus of the guideline which would require consideration of a specific communication or engagement need, related to disability, age, or other equality consideration?

If so, what is it and what action might be taken by NICE or the developer to meet this need? (For example, adjustments to committee processes, additional forms of consultation)

No.

Updated by Developer: Maija Kallioinen

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Approved by NICE quality assurance lead: Kay Nolan

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021