



National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

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Dear Colleagues

A briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committees – introducing the NICE field team

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.

Although much of our guidance refers to clinical practice in the NHS, in recent years our remit has broadened to include public health and so an increasing amount of NICE guidance also has direct relevance for local authorities, voluntary bodies, employers and the wider public. As our role has developed we have been keen to develop links with partners in local government.

If further information about the role of NICE and its guidance would be useful for your Overview and Scrutiny Committee, our local Implementation Consultant would be delighted to attend a committee meeting and provide a briefing on our work.

The Consultants have already met with a small number of overview and scrutiny committees and have received a positive response. Following a recent visit, Councillor Bert Grange, Chair of the Cheshire Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Select Committee said:

"In view of the apparent weight given to advice/guidance on access to treatments generally, the Cheshire Health OSC recently asked for information on the role of NICE and the way in which it undertakes its responsibilities. Chris Connell (Implementation Consultant-West) readily accepted an invitation to attend a Briefing Workshop which Members found informative, thought-provoking and very useful in the context of work planning."

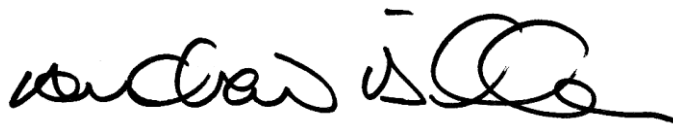
Lucy Johns, Health Partnerships Officer with, Dorset County Council commented:

"It was very worthwhile for members and officers to have some time outside of committee to consider and understand the work of NICE. The presentation was excellent. I am sure that we will be referring back to you on complex matters and the NICE evidence base for scrutiny reports and reviews"

For your information I have also attached a copy of our leaflet, *Using NICE guidance to promote health and wellbeing* which is an introduction to NICE for people working with local communities.

I hope that you will find the attendance of the implementation consultants at one of your meetings a valuable aid to working with NICE guidance. If you would like to arrange a date for one of them to attend, please email Penny Barber, Field Team Administrator at penny.barber@nice.org.uk or on direct dial number (0161) 870 3042.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Dillon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Dillon

Chief Executive