

## National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

### PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES – OLDER PEOPLE: INDEPENDENCE AND MENTAL WELLBEING

**Consultation on the Draft Guideline from 29 May – 10 July 2015**  
**Comments to be received no later than 5.00 pm on 10 July 2015**

#### Stakeholder Comments

Please use this form for submitting your comments to the Institute.

1. Please put each new comment in a new row.
2. Please insert the **section number** (eg 3.2) in the 1<sup>st</sup> column. If your comment relates to the document as a whole, please put '**general**' in this column
3. Please insert the **page number** (ie '7') in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column.
4. **Please note forms with attachments such as research articles, letters or leaflets cannot be accepted. If forms are received with an attachment they will be returned without being read. Any resubmitted forms without attachments must be by the consultation deadline.**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Jenny Gowen</b>
<b>Organisation:</b>		<b>Optical Confederation and College of Optometrists</b>
Section number	Page Number	Comments
Indicate <b>section number</b> or ' <b>general</b> ' if your comment relates to the whole document		Please insert each new comment in a new row.
5 - Identify or appoint a local coordinator	6, 15-30	Although we fully support the actions recommended in this section of the guideline, we are concerned that tasking a well-situated individual to proactively engage with those most at risk is only a recommendation to be 'considered'. Without this dedicated support, it is very likely that disabled and other seldom heard groups may not be reached.
7 - Carry out a local needs assessment	8, 17-29	We propose expanding this list to include other primary care providers, such as those in the community optical sector, who are likely to have relevant knowledge of those older people at increased risk of social exclusion in the local community
7 - Carry out a local needs assessment	9, 2	We suggest that 'disability' – including sensory disability – be included in the list of barriers to older people participating in local activities.
7 - Carry out a local needs assessment	9, 5-7	Such enquiry must take account of factors such as disability, ethnicity and seldom heard status to ensure activities meet the needs of these populations.
8 - Publicise services and activities	9, 12-14	Planned publicity for activities must take into consideration the formats (e.g. large print and other formats) and locations of information materials. Older people with visual or other disabilities may have lower than average digital literacy and may be more house-bound than similarly aged people without physical or sensory impairment.
10 - Overcome barriers to participation	10-11	We are pleased to see the inclusion of support for people with visual or other impairments that may affect their mobility or confidence to travel outside the home. However, we are again

Please add extra rows as needed

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*NB: The Institute reserves the absolute right to edit, summarise or remove comments received on during consultation on draft guideline where, in the reasonable opinion of the Institute, they may conflict with the law, are voluminous or are otherwise considered inappropriate.*

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		concerned that this guidance is only listed a something which 'should be considered'. Given the significant number of older people who are at risk of visual impairment - 1 in 5 of those aged 75 and older and 1 in 2 of those over 90 - and Britain's ageing population, strong support for those most at risk of social isolation and loss of independence is essential.
13 - Publicise local communities and services	12, 19-27	Again, we urge careful consideration of the formats to be used. Format and location of publicity materials should follow accessible information standards, bearing in mind that older people with visual or other disabilities may have lower than average digital literacy and may be more house-bound than similarly aged people without physical and sensory impairment.

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