



New Targeting Social Need - Action Plan

June 2001

Northern Health and Social Services Council (NHSSC)

The Council was established in 1991 as an independent consumer organisation. It has a duty to represent the public's views and interests, to review the work of health and social services and to recommend any improvements needed. Main activities of the Council are:

- To represent the public's views when decisions are being made about services.
- To influence the Northern Board's activities which relate to introducing services.
- To respond to proposals and plans put forward by Northern Board.
- To offer support and guidance to members of the public who want to complain about any part of the services.
- To carry out research into how people view services and their experiences of them.
- To monitor the service performance against the standards set out in charters.
- To give people a range of information about services.
- To visit health and social services facilities run by health and social services trusts.

New Targeting Social Need (New TSN)

As a public body we can contribute to the new TSN initiative by ensuring that the health and social needs of disadvantaged people are objectively assessed, targeted for improvement and progress monitored. The Council is a small organisation with a very small budget and our services are targeted to promote equal opportunities for all our region's residents. However, this year both the equality obligation and the New TSN initiative will be core components of our Annual Work Programme to ensure that people in greatest need are aware of our role and services.

In addition to our own services we will continue to work in partnership with other statutory organisations and voluntary and community groups to progress this initiative.

NHSSC Action Plan

Our action plan will specify the action we will take and the timescales involved. We will consult widely on the proposed action and will specifically target disadvantaged areas and people to get their views on our plans.

NHSSC New TSN Action Plan

1	To ensure that New TSN is embedded in our Annual Work Programme.	New TSN considerations and targets will be built into 2001/2002 Annual Work Programme to be produced by April 2001.
2	To raise and maintain awareness of New TSN within the Council.	(i) By April 2001, provide information on the aims, objectives and targets under the new TSN policy to all Council members. (ii) By October 2001, ensure that New TSN forms part of NHSSC training and development for members and staff. (iii) By December 2001, ensure that collaborative arrangements are in place with statutory, voluntary and community organisations to review progress of Action Plan.
3	To promote policies and programmes of action which aim to reduce inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas.	(i) Promote appropriate information on the role of the Council within disadvantaged areas by December 2001. (ii) Develop a programme of meetings with key workers in areas identified within NHSSB Health Action Zone by March 2002. (iii) Locate a number of Council meetings in disadvantaged areas and meet community workers to discuss local health and social care issues. (iv) Contribute to and monitor outcomes of Health and Wellbeing Improvement Plans.
4	To ensure that access to good quality childcare and family support is targeted towards those in areas of greatest need.	Monitor the development and implementation of the NHSSB Children's Services Plan.
5	To promote the social inclusion of those who are	(i) Assist in the progress of implementing the recommendations of the report of the

	most disadvantaged by encouraging community development approaches and involving local people in decisions about their health and social care needs and the services provided.	Community Development Working Group. (ii) Work with the NHSSB, trusts, the voluntary sector and disadvantaged communities in the development of community needs assessment techniques. (iii) Target disadvantaged communities and local people in Council's research and user involvement projects. Timescales to be detailed in the Annual Work Programme.
6	To measure the extent to which inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people, groups and areas are being reduced.	(i) Ensure that the targeting of social need is fully recognised in equality impact assessments of Council policies. (ii) Monitor specific public health strategies for their ability to reduce inequalities. (iii) Monitor the implementation of interventions to evaluate how they reduce inequalities in the NHSSB area.
7	To ensure that those in greatest need are identified.	Work in collaboration with other statutory and voluntary organisations and the community towards effective population needs assessments and representation.
8	To ensure that resources are matched to health and social care needs so that inequalities experienced by disadvantaged people are reduced.	Monitor the NHSSB's Action Plan to ensure that resources are allocated to reduce inequalities.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.