

Consultation on Health Standards Framework

We would appreciate comments on the proposed framework.

Response form

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Returning this form

The closing date for replies is 26th January 2015

Please send this completed form to us by post or by email to

Health Standards Framework Consultation

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Cathays Park

Cardiff

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If you are sending your response by email, please mark the subject of your email:

Consultation on Health Standards Framework.

Publication of responses

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here

Please note that the consultation ends on 26 January 2015

What do you think?

Please feel free to make any comment you wish on this document, or the background information. However, we would particularly welcome comments on the attached questions:

1. Do you agree with the 7 quality themes (please tick)?

Agree with most	Agree/disagree with some	Disagree with most
Yes		

Please comment.

NRW welcomes the Health Standards Framework in its entirety, but recognises that the theme within which we are best placed to play a part is 'staying healthy'. To this end, unless we specify otherwise all our comments are to be considered under this theme.

2. Do you agree with the standards identified within each theme?

Agree with most	Agree/disagree with some	Disagree with most
yes		

Please comment.

Staying Healthy:

knowing and understanding what care, support and opportunities are available

NRW is the largest land manager in Wales and facilitating access to the natural environment to improve people's physical and mental health is key to our purpose. Our Outdoor Recreation and Access Enabling Plan has an overarching aim of helping more people to be more active in the outdoors more often. Matching need to accessible greenspace will be a key part of delivering this aim and will require working together with partners in the public, private and third sectors as well as with communities across Wales.

A 'prospectus' of resources, including available access to quality outdoor space, facilities and activities, will be an important tool for organisations in Wales in an era of diminishing resources – ensuring that resources are used to benefit those people and communities in greatest need.

supporting people to engage, participate and feel valued in society

This standard is key to improving people's feeling of well-being in general, but in particular of their engagement with, and sense of place of, their local community and environment. NRW uses the natural environment as the catalyst around which people can be encouraged, engaged and provided with learning opportunities. In this way we aim to improve people's sense of place and of their understanding of, and engagement with, the environment. Research shows that this in turn helps people to value themselves and their communities. Developing interventions that can be delivered at a variety of scales that are dynamic enough to be locally and nationally applicable will be important for this standard. Measuring participation and sense of value and ownership are difficult and working across the public health and associated sector in order to develop interventions that are manageable, achievable and measurable will be important.

supporting people to be healthy happy and lead an active life

This Standard requires the involvement of the activity sector, land managers and those Welsh Government Divisions responsible for developing strategy for these areas of work. Developing and measuring interventions that target lifestyle choices and lifestyle stages will be important – behaviour change is a long term goal and not one that can be quickly achieved within the normal timespan of a policy or strategy document. This should be recognised within the detail of this standard. The NRW led Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey currently provides rich data on the physical outdoor recreational activity levels of adults in Wales, and coupled with the Sport Wales adult survey provides detail on levels of activity across indoor and outdoor activities. It is important that the core elements of these surveys are captured within the new Wales National Survey so that we continue to be able to measure and report on the activity levels of Wales's population whilst using the data gathered to develop new interventions.

• making sure that children have a good healthy start in life

NRW plays an active role in facilitating education and learning for children of all ages through using the natural environment to deliver core curricular activities. Learning through play at Foundation Phase aids children to develop motor skills and to experience the outdoors in a way they may not previously have done for example.

Ensuring that children have access to clean water, clean air, to shade and are not at risk of flood are all important aspects of this standard that NRW play an important role in facilitating and delivering across Wales – from influencing planning for urban tree planting and sustainable urban drainage schemes through to ensuring the Water Framework Directive is adhered to in those catchments at risk of failing. Delivering this standard will require multi agency input in a variety of small and large scale interventions. The standard below regarding 'healthy and safe workplaces' could be broadened to include places of education (aimed at not just those working there, but those children attending)

• having systems in place to identify and act upon significant public health issues

NRW have mechanisms in place to alert public health colleagues to environmental pollution incidents with the potential to impact on public health. We also provide an air quality incident response service (including monitoring) for incidents with the potential to significantly affect public health. Existing mechanisms should be recognised within a role out of the Framework and any development work highlighted accordingly.

• promoting healthy and safe workplaces

See point above

• promoting the health and well being of staff

We suggest broadening this standard to include children attending educational establishments as per comment above.

3. Are there any further refinements you would like to make to the Health Standards Framework document?

Please comment.

Page 2 refers to Co-production and public services – there is an opportunity here for challenging the healthcare services to look for new public services to work with. Particularly those involved in providing sites, opportunities and facilities in the natural environment and quality, accessible places where people can "contribute fully to their own health and wellbeing" (as referenced on page 3 under 'Purpose')

Theme 2 doesn't acknowledge the need for a healthy environment free from pollution and hazardous waste.

4. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

This Framework will require a monitoring and evaluation plan that is achievable at a variety of levels. Small organisations as well as large public sector bodies will need to demonstrate their contribution to the Wales level goals. Any monitoring should be developed in conjunction with key partners, and should utilise the results based accounting approach which will help to tell the story behind improvements, as well as provide key Wales level indicators that all organisations and bodies could adopt.

5. Your name/organisation and address (postal/e-mail)

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6. I am a/an (please tick one only):

Patient or former patient	
Family member or carer	
Member of the public	
Member of NHS staff	
Organisation with an interest in the health service	yes
Support organisation	
Legal organisation	
Other	

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.