Board meeting

20 May 2025

NICE’s role in addressing health inequalities: annual update

Purpose of paper

For review and approval

Board action required

The board is asked to review progress and support the proposed plan for the health inequalities work programme for 2025/26.

Brief summary

This paper gives an annual update on progress made with delivering the cross-institute, NICE health inequalities work programme and proposed plan for next year.

* We are in our fifth year of our work to strengthen NICE’s focus and approach to considering health inequalities and raise the profile of our offer to the health and care system and voluntary and community sector.
* Recent highlights include further progression towards a more systematic approach to consideration of health inequalities in our methods and guidance production; the approval of ground breaking therapy for sickle cell disease made by possible by committee consideration of the potential health inequalities impact; and a formal partnership with the Race Health Observatory to enhance the health inequalities lens in production of NICE guidance but also to enhance our efforts to support uptake and adoption.
* Proposed plans for 25/26 will continue to be based on four core areas of focus: a targeted approach to health inequalities in our methods and guidance production; addressing health inequalities through the uptake and adoption of NICE guidance; developing partnerships to support action on health inequalities; and having health inequalities focus in our organisation. This work will be progressed by a cross-institute programme delivery group.

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Board sponsors

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