

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT FORM

Stakeholder Comments

Please use this form to submit comments or suggestions.

1. Please put each new comment in a new row.

2. Please do not paste other tables into this table, as your comments could get lost - type directly into this table.

3. **Please always refer to section numbers (and not page numbers.)** Insert the **section number** and paragraph (within each section) in the first column (see examples).

4. If your comment relates to the document as a whole, please put **'general'** in this column. (See examples).

To be considered your completed form MUST be returned by 28 February 2008.

Name:	Linda Long, Health Development Officer
Organisation:	Sense Scotland
Section number Indicate section number or 'general' if your comment relates to the whole document	Comments Please insert each new comment in a new row.
1, 4.1, 6.2, 8.4, 9.4,9.8	We welcome the wide recognition of the many factors that contribute to good mental health and the inter-relationship between poor physical health and poor mental health across the lifespan as well as the action needed to improve quality of life, social inclusion, equality, recovery, and addressing stigma, prejudice and discrimination (but see general comments below)..
9.8, 10.2	We welcome the recognition that the entire community benefits when there is a wider sense of social wellbeing (but see general comments below).
1.1, 6, 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 9.6l	We welcome the recognition of the numerous barriers to good mental health and the additional stigma experienced by people at disadvantage because of disability and poverty (but see general comments below).
General	The inequalities faced by people with complex support

	<p>needs as well as that of their carers and others with sensory impairments and communication difficulties are largely unrecognised in this document. Individuals with complex support needs, including communication support needs caused by sensory impairment, are a minority population that exists across all socioeconomic groups and within all geographical locations. At the most basic level, mental health improvement within this vulnerable population requires funding to enable increased access to local community resources and the development and maintenance of trusted communication support.</p>
2, 3.2, 7.1, 7.2, 8.3.1, 8.5.2, 9.1, 11.2	<p>Sense Scotland makes a significant contribution to mental health improvement for Scotland's communities, though this aspect of its work is not often recognised. We develop initiatives throughout the country that are enjoyed and valued by people with complex support needs and their families. We would like to do more but would need more resources to do so.</p>
3.2, 7.1, 7.3, 8.3.2, 8.5.2, 9.6, 9.7, 10.1.2, 11.2	<p>We would like to see a national statement that encourages CHPs and local authorities throughout Scotland to seek local initiatives within the community and voluntary sector that address mental health and wellbeing of people with complex support needs and their families.</p>
5, 5.3, 8.3.2 -5. 9.2, 10.1.1	<p>Targeted effort to benefit and promote the mental wellbeing of people with complex and multiple needs is integral to the expertise developed by Sense Scotland throughout the country.</p>
5.3, 8.3.3, 9.1	<p>We work collaboratively with a wide range of health professionals and others to promote positive wellbeing amongst people with a range of co-morbidities.</p>
6., 6.1, 8.3.5	<p>We welcome a focus on addressing the needs of people who are subject to discrimination and are likely to receive inequitable health promotion opportunities. People with complex support needs often require intensive 1:1 assistance to understand and consider healthy living information and health improvement options. Addressing inequitable health promotion issues and opportunities can be enhanced by the development and sustainment of quality and personable health promotion resources. There is increasing evidence that there is a disproportionate incidence of people with complex support needs from ethnic minority backgrounds. Sense Scotland is keen to develop further wellbeing initiatives that respond to the diverse cultural backgrounds of people with complex support needs.</p>
6.3, 6.4 , 6.5, 8.3.4, 8.4.1, 9.1	<p>We agree that work to develop wellbeing during the early years is likely to pay dividends in preventing mental health crises necessitating specialised support and possible drug</p>

	treatment in later life. But mainstream early years initiatives must extend their approach to be inclusive of children with complex support needs. Sense Scotland and other voluntary organisations are well placed to work in partnership with others at local levels to address the mental wellbeing of all children throughout Scotland.
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Please add extra rows if needed.

Please return to: Nicola Radley, Area 3ER, Mental Health Division, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

By Email: nicola.radley@scotland.gsi.gov.uk