

Achieving Age Equality in Local Services

Age discrimination is one of the least discussed but most often encountered forms of social injustice in the UK.

Why Age Equality Matters in Health and Social Care

Providing high quality care to people of all ages is at the heart of the principles of the health and social care system, and in the White Paper *Equity and excellence, liberating the NHS*, the Government committed to end age discrimination in health and social care by 2012. This was based on the conclusions of the national review of age discrimination, [Achieving age equality in health and social care](#) (October 2009), which set out how to promote age equality in the light of the Equality Act 2010 and current efficiency and quality improvement programmes. It also highlighted the need for local authorities, NHS organisations, voluntary and independent sector providers, community groups, older people's forums and networks to work together (as an Area Audit Group) to undertake a joint audit of age discrimination and age equality in local health and social care services.

The Equality Act (2010)

This places new duties on organisations and individuals to end discrimination and promote equality. Alongside the other equality strands such as race, gender, disability etc, the Act for the first time bans age discrimination in the provision of services and introduces a duty on public bodies to promote equality, including age equality.

How can NDTi help you?

NDTi has developed an online tool and resources to help local authorities and NHS organisations undertake this audit, and agree joint action plans for reducing discrimination and achieving age equality in local services, available at <http://age-equality.southwest.nhs.uk/>

For around £7,000 (typically shared between local PCTs and LAs) we can help you:

- Develop a shared understanding of “age equality” in health and social care – a key concern in the recent health service Ombudsman report *Care and Compassion (2011)*
- Set up an Area Audit Group comprised of local older people and leads from health and social care services, and help to deliver this work
- Pull together and help to analyse data from different sources to identify if, and where, age discrimination exists
- Agree priorities for allocating limited resources across the system, and identify how to measure the impact in terms of improving outcomes and experiences of health and social care
- Prepare and deliver reports for relevant groups.

Contact Marc Mordey (Marc.Mordey@ndti.org.uk) or Helen Bowers (Helen.Bowers@ndti.org.uk) or telephone 01202 471423 for further information about how we can help you improve local services for older people.

