

Promoting multi-disciplinary services as appropriate

Statutory guidance 15.16

Staffing arrangements should promote a multi-disciplinary approach where this is appropriate to meet the needs of people using the service. This may involve multidisciplinary teams working within the service, or coordination with others out with the service, such as district nursing teams, GP's or Allied Health Professionals (AHP's). This principle must be consistent with the main purposes of the guiding principles, namely the provision of safe, high-quality services and to ensure the best care outcomes for people using those services. Care service providers should consider multi-disciplinary service models as well as profession specific models in terms of opportunities / benefits when deciding what is suited to the needs of the person receiving care. Again this aligns with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state in, for example in 1.13 'I am assessed by a qualified person, who involves other people and professionals as required' and 2.26 'I know how different organisations can support my health and wellbeing and I am helped to contact them if I wish'.

The unique role of each profession in the multi-disciplinary service should continue to be recognised and promoted within the context of ensuring the highest quality of care is provided to people using the service. This consideration is central to determining whether or not the involvement of another discipline from the multidisciplinary team is "appropriate" or not. Where it is not deemed appropriate, best practice would be to provide clear rationale for the decision-making.

Documents you may consider:

- [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) - Five key questions](#)
- [SSSC codes of practice for social service workers and employers](#)

