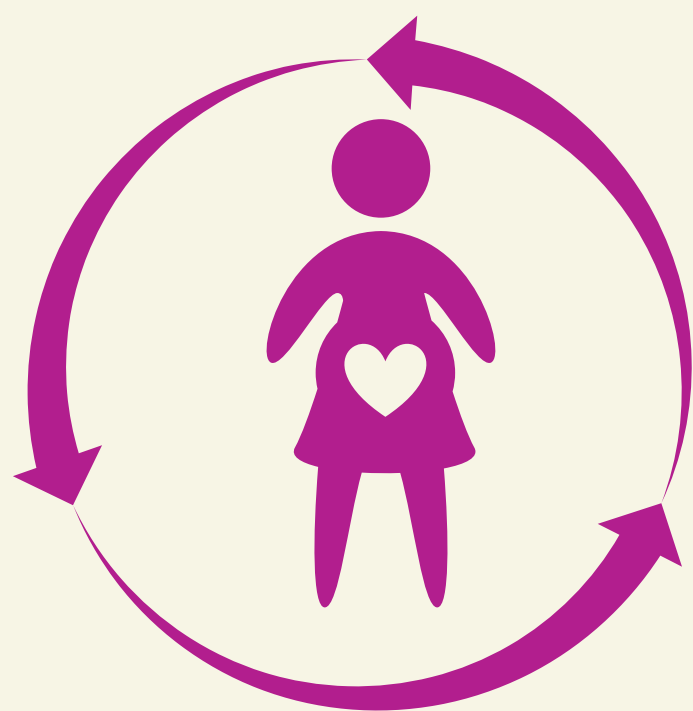
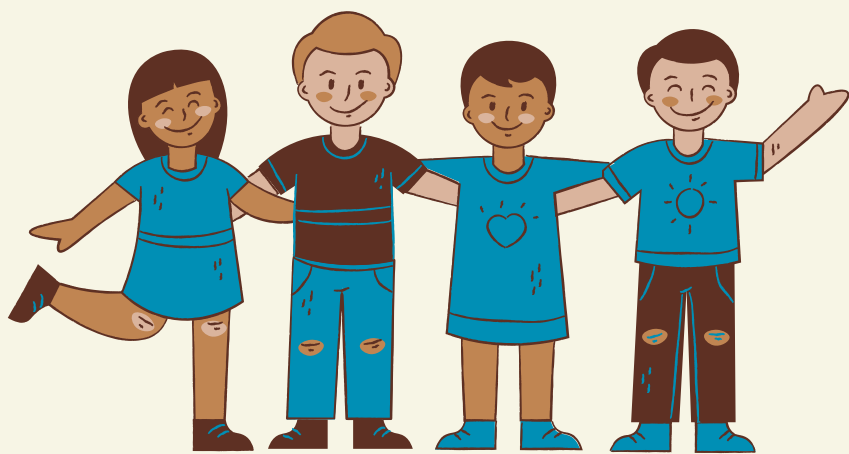


# FASD POLICY MATTERS

## NICE QUALITY STANDARD

# NICE



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued a new **Quality Standard on FASD.**

It identifies areas for improving care, including:

- Assessing and diagnosing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in children and young people.
- Support during pregnancy to prevent FASD.

For the first time in England and Wales, local areas will have to show what they are doing to improve FASD services for children and young people.



# SIGN

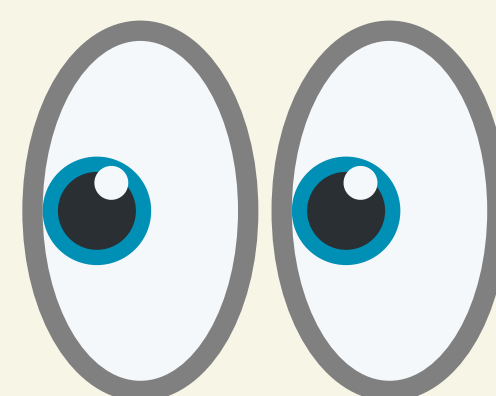
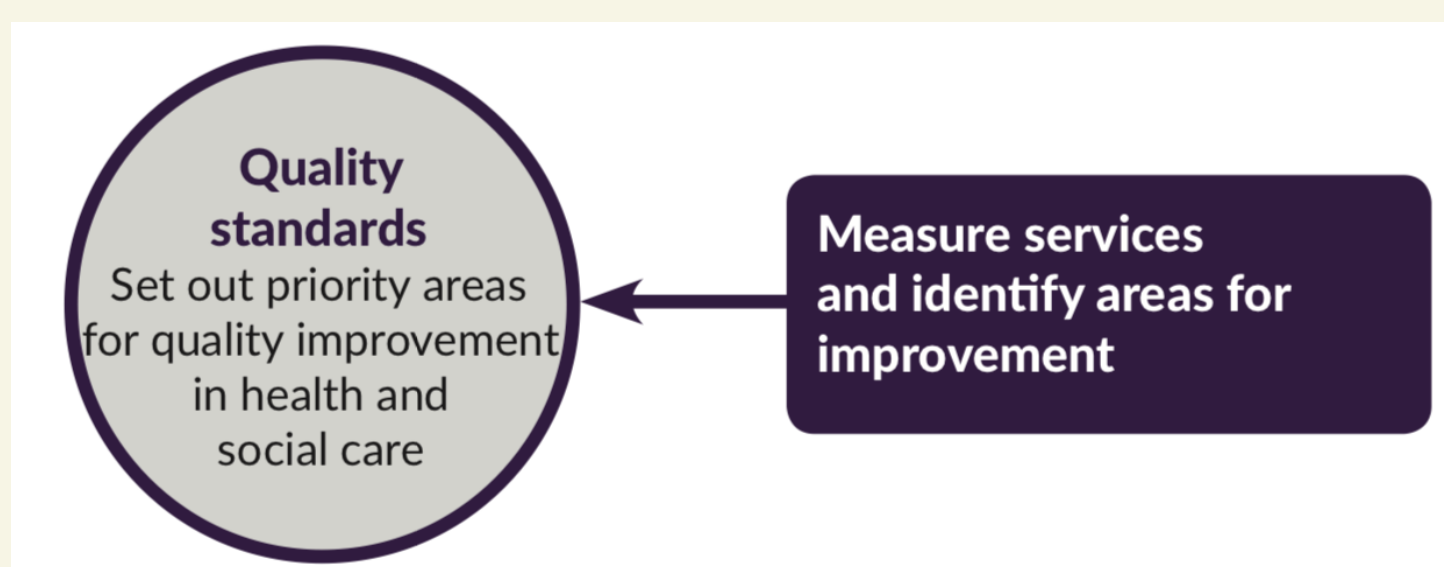


This NICE Quality Standard is based on Scottish SIGN guidance, which **focuses on FASD in children and young people.**

While the NICE Quality Standard sadly doesn't focus on improving care for adults, it is a first step.

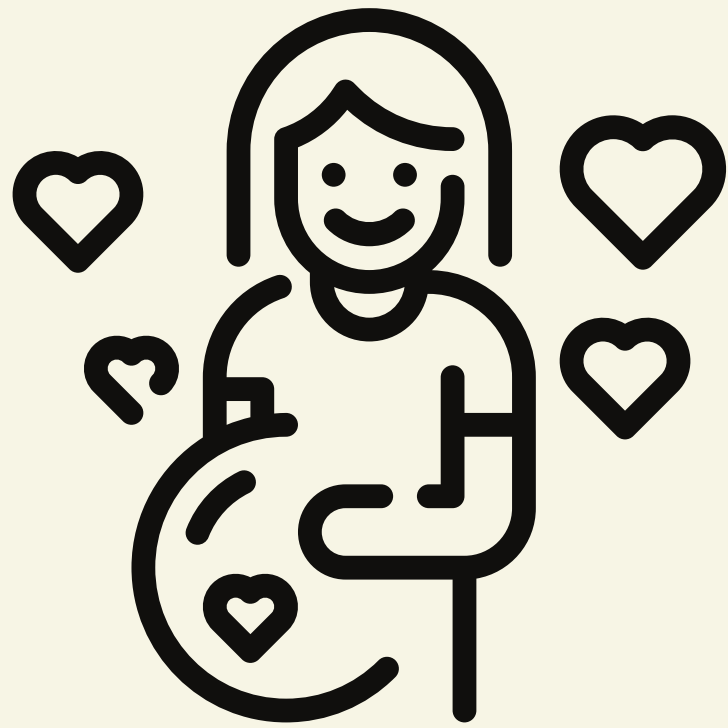
The changes it calls for could take years. But the Quality Standard means **FASD can no longer be ignored by those delivering health and social care in England and Wales.**

Northern Ireland and Scotland can decide to adopt the Quality Standard too.



# Areas for improvement

## 1 - Advice



Pregnant women are given advice throughout pregnancy not to drink alcohol because there is no known safe level of alcohol during pregnancy

It should be verbal and written and non-judgemental. Support should be offered as needed.

This means women will have the information they need to make informed choices.

## 2 - Fetal alcohol exposure



Pregnant women are asked about their alcohol use throughout their pregnancy and this is recorded.

This should be done in a sensitive and non-judgemental way.



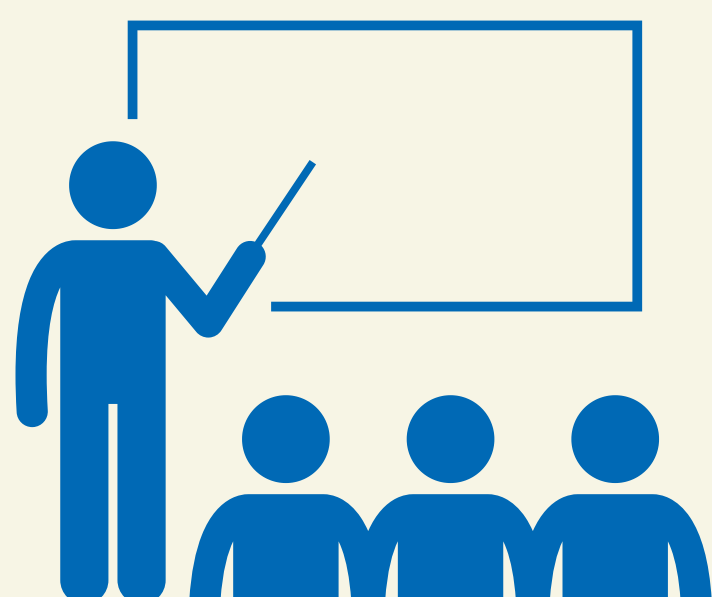
This will ensure women get support and fetal alcohol exposure is recognised. This will help later with diagnosis if the child or young person is struggling.

# 3 - Referral for assessment



Children and young people with probable prenatal alcohol exposure and significant physical, developmental or behavioural difficulties are referred for assessment by someone with FASD training.

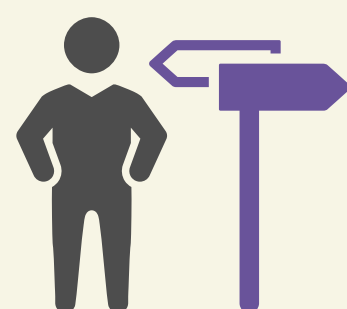
Health services will have to show they have:



- FASD training for GPs, community paediatric services, child development centres, CAMHS, etc.



- multi-disciplinary teams with expertise in FASD
- referral pathways



This means FASD will be considered as a reason why a child may be struggling. This is a big step forward.



# 4 - Neurodevelopmental assessment



**This is 'needed' according to the Quality Standard**

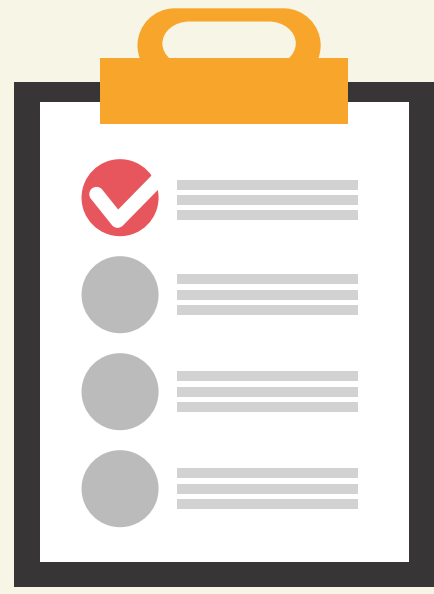


Children and young people with confirmed prenatal alcohol exposure or all 3 facial features associated with prenatal alcohol exposure have a neurodevelopmental assessment if there are clinical concerns. It covers the areas of brain function known to be affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. Local areas should have teams who are trained in FASD to do this.

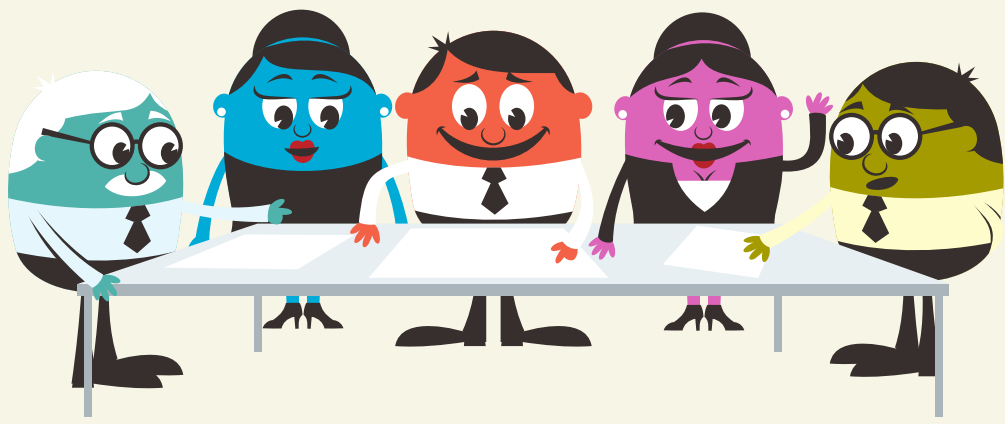
NICE says diagnosis ensures the child or young person receives the right treatment, care and support while plans for longer-term management are being made.

This means the right tests should be done if a child or young person was exposed to alcohol in the womb to help identify how to support their needs.

# 5 - Management plan



Children and young people with FASD will have a management plan to help address their needs.



An individualised management plan sets out the intervention and support needs identified during assessment and diagnosis of FASD. It:

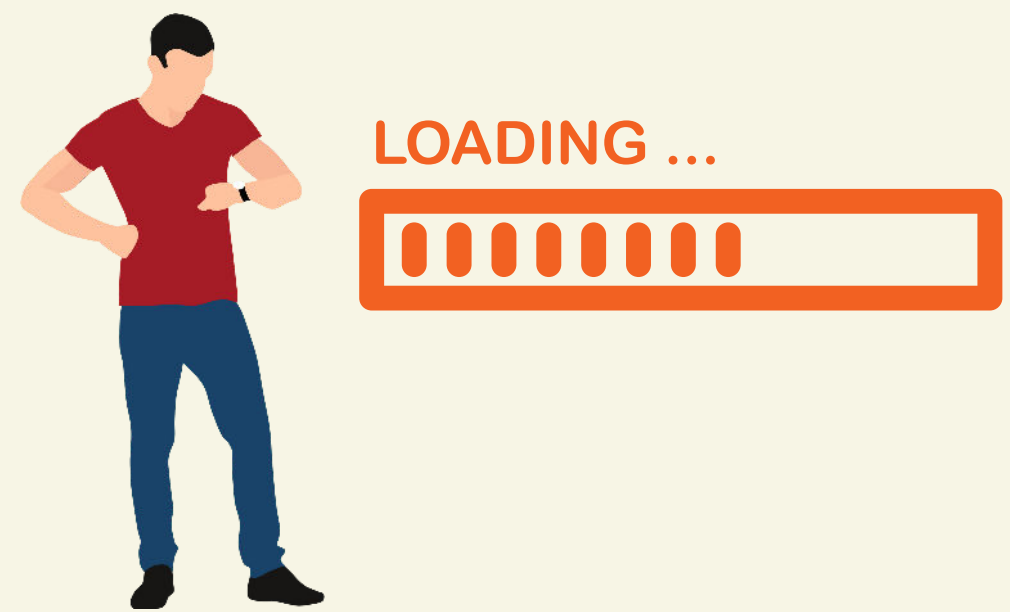
- Address basic and immediate needs and longer-term needs
- Anticipate upcoming problems
- Coordinate care across health, education and social services
- Be revised at times of transition



This means if a child or young person has FASD, there should be a plan for how to get the right support and help across services.

# How can the NICE Quality Standard help you?

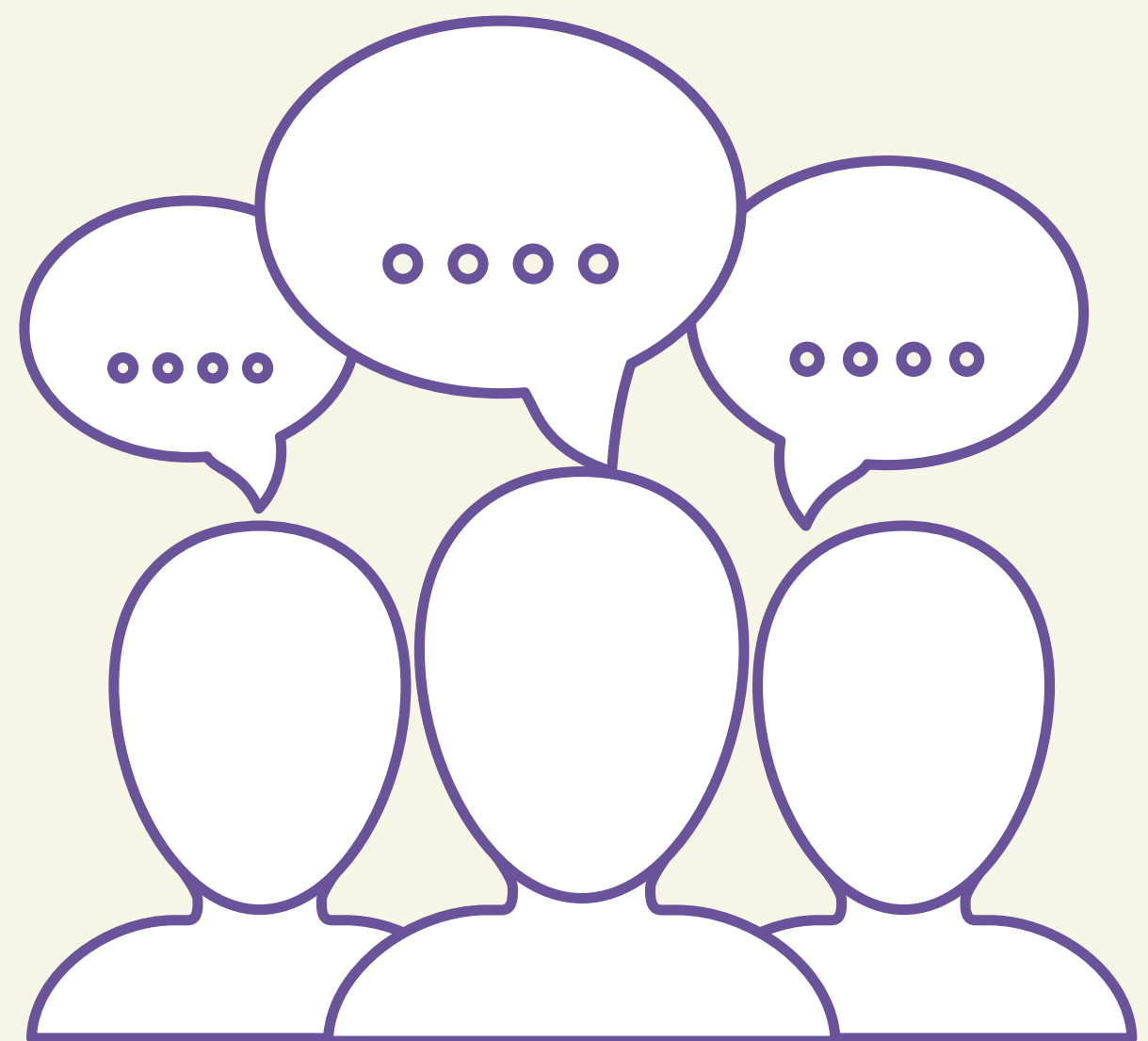
These changes won't happen right way, in some places they may even take years.



In the meantime, you can show this NICE Quality Standard to doctors, schools, benefit assessors or anyone who questions the importance of FASD diagnosis and support. Find allies to help you fight for improved care.



This Quality Standard isn't perfect. Some people are pushing for NICE to make its own guidance on FASD that can cover more things - like care after a diagnosis and diagnosis and care for adults with FASD.





# #ChangelsComing!

## #NICEQSFASD

People with FASD and their families have been at the core of pushing for these changes.



National FASD and other groups in the FASD UK Alliance have been urging action from policy makers.

## #HearOurVoices

**All people with FASD - adults and children - have a right to diagnosis and support with dignity.**

[www.NationalFASD.org.uk](http://www.NationalFASD.org.uk) • [www.fasd.me](http://www.fasd.me)

National FASD • Policy Matters • 16 March 2022