

Adult Social Care Provider Inspection Handbook

Care Quality Commission

RPC rating: fit for purpose

The impact assessment (IA) is now fit for purpose as a result of the Department's response to the RPC's initial review notice. As first submitted, the IA was not fit for purpose.

Description of proposal

CQC produces a handbook for regulated social care providers, which sets out what providers can expect during inspections of their services. The handbook is designed to be read by service level registered managers and by senior provider managers (who have specific responsibility for compliance, quality and safety in how regulated activity is provided).

A new handbook has been introduced to reflect changes in their inspection methodology from November 2017 onwards. The main change is the reduced length of the new handbook. The new guidance is 6,444 words long, whereas the previous handbook was 27,525 words long.

Impacts of proposal

The changes made by CQC will affect all adult social care service providers; the regulator estimates based on the Department for Health's management information that there are 13,263 such providers and that 90.5% of them are private sector providers. The main impact of the change on providers is a reduction in the amount of time staff will spend on regular re-familiarisation with the guidance.

The CQC has carried out a survey of Adult Social Care Providers to ascertain what level of staff are most likely to read the revised handbook regularly. The results indicated it is usually read by nominated individuals' and registered managers, as they are the ones who have the legal responsibility as to how regulated activity is undertaken. Some responses said junior staff are also encouraged to read the handbook. Using this information and the CQC's register, the regulator estimates that 8,988 nominated individuals, 1,057 providers who are individuals, 821 partnership lead partners and 20,129 registered managers will be required to read the guidance regularly. Using standard data on reading speeds and salaries, it then estimates a

one-off cost of initial familiarisation with the new guidance of £1 million, and an ongoing benefit of £6.3 million as a result of reduced time spent on regular refamiliarization with the guidance.

Quality of submission

The CQC has now provided clarification on the two red rated points previously raised in the IRN. It now includes supporting evidence for the CQC's assumption of two reads per year, which is based on a survey of providers. Also, the CQC have now calculated non-wage labour costs correctly and clarified its description of its approach to calculating costs and benefits.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	£-6.2 million
Business net present value	£53.3 million
Overall net present value	£53.3 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
EANDCB – RPC validated ¹	-£6.2 million
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	-£31.0 million
Small and micro business assessment	Sufficient
RPC rating	Fit for purpose

Regulatory Policy Committee

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.