

PFG PRIORITIES:

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

> Recommendations

We recommend actions to:

- identify and remove barriers to health and social care and well being experienced by particular Section 75 equality groups, including older people; lesbian, gay and bisexual people; trans people; Irish Travellers and other minority ethnic communities; and people with disabilities;
- ensure investment in health care to address the specific needs of equality groups, including the health care needs of people with disabilities, and young people's mental health needs.

> Health and social care inequalities

Health and social care is fundamental to people's quality of life and general well being. A number of factors can contribute to health inequalities including socio-economic and environmental circumstances; lifestyle and health behaviour; and access to effective health and social care.

The Commission has highlighted barriers to accessing health and social care, experienced by particular Section 75 equality groups, such as older people; lesbian, gay and bisexual people; trans people; Irish Travellers and other minority ethnic communities. These include barriers relating to prejudice, information, language, culture and, particularly for rural people, lack or affordability of transport.

We have also highlighted the need to ensure investment in health care to address the specific needs of equality groups; for example, people with disabilities, including the sexual health and maternity needs of women with disabilities; as well as young people's mental health needs and to address the high suicide rates among men, Irish Travellers, and young people.

We have raised concerns regarding barriers to accessing health and social care, including those faced by children and young people in accessing age-appropriate health care; as well as ageist attitudes experienced by older people, and stereotypes that portray older people as cared for, rather than care givers. Further, we have called for a full consultation on abortion law in Northern Ireland. There is also the need to ensure the collection by the Department of Health, of system wide data across the Section 75 grounds; and that appropriate account is taken of people's multiple identities.

Read more: www.equalityni.org/Health

