

What can developments in the WHO Wheelchair Service Training Packages and the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals bring to the UK?

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Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a comprehensive wheelchair service training package (WSTP), which can be modified to the context of delivery. What is the relevance of this package for the UK?

Statement of Purpose

Aims

To present the rationale and approach to implementation of the WHO wheelchair service training packages.

Objectives

1. To explain the scope, purpose and methodology of the training packages
2. To provide an overview of the aims & objectives of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP)
3. To discuss with PMG members whether the training packages may be appropriate within the UK.

Background

The WHO 'Guidelines on the provision of manual wheelchairs in less resourced settings' were published in 2008. The training packages are tools to turn this document into reality; designed to increase the capacity of personnel working in wheelchair provision. Training progression is based on clients' postural support needs. The basic level training package was launched in 2012; the intermediate in 2013; the managers and stakeholders in 2015. Piloting of the Training of Trainers module will be complete by October 2016.

The ISWP was formed in 2015 with the aim of developing a self-sustaining network of international and regional partners dedicated to the professionalisation of wheelchair services around the world.

Learning objectives

1. To describe how the wheelchair service training package aims to train personnel in wheelchair service delivery
2. To explain how ISWP is using the WHO guidelines and WSTP to promote the opportunity for standardised professionalisation within the sector
3. To evaluate through discussion and reflection the relevance and opportunities offered by these training packages within the UK

Reference

World Health Organization, 2008. *Guidelines on the provision of Manual Wheelchairs in less resourced settings*.