

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit

November 2012

The new [Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit](#) has been launched to provide a source of information and good practice about the issues surrounding health service delivery in rural areas.

This new web based resource will act as a reference for health service commissioners, supporting them to develop and maintain a better understanding of the issues surrounding the commissioning and delivery of health services in rural areas. The Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit will draw attention to what needs to be taken into account when commissioning and delivering rural health services. The Toolkit will assist the commissioners of healthcare to think, in practical terms, about the impact of rurality and to assess the potential gains and pitfalls when commissioning healthcare provision for rural communities.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department of Health have worked together with the Local Government Association, the NHS Confederation and the Rural Primary Care Trust (PCT) Network to develop this web based source of information.

The Institute of Rural Health were commissioned to deliver the resource and their engagement with rural health practitioners is reflected throughout.

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