

Definitions of content types used on Social Care Online

Content type	Definition
Circular	Letters and circulars issued by government which provide non-statutory advice and guidance on government legislation and policy.
Consultation document	Consultations published by Ministerial and Non-ministerial government departments and the UK national governments of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Includes White Papers and Green Papers. Also includes responses to government consultations by other organisations.
Government publication	Items published by Ministerial and Non-ministerial government departments, and the UK national governments of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.
Inspection report	Inspection reports from regulatory bodies. Includes inspections of individual services and thematic inspection reports.
Learning resource	Training and teaching packs; training and teaching manuals; and online training resources.
Legislation	Acts of Parliament (primary legislation), statutory instruments and regulations (delegated or secondary legislation).
Practice guidance	Advisory material which provides clear guidance for practice based on current evidence. The documents in Practice guidance may be based on a comprehensive review of current evidence (either through a systematic review or comprehensive literature review) or on practice experience. Includes government and sector- led practice guidance.

Practice example	Local, national or regional examples of practice. Includes descriptions and case studies. Examples are not quality assured.
Research	Published descriptions of research studies. Includes comparative studies, case studies, service evaluations, surveys and research summaries.
Research review	Literature review, topic overview or descriptive article providing a summary of research on a particular topic. Research reviews do not meet the full criteria for a systematic review.
Statutory guidance	Statutory practice guidance issued by government departments and the UK national governments of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.
Standards	Standards provide some form of measurable criteria with which to assess quality of services and care. This category covers both government and sector led standards, and includes compulsory standards.
Statistical publication	Items which present or analyse statistical data. Includes major statistical publications such as annual digests and statistical bulletins and infographics. Covers statistics from official and non-official sources.
Systematic review	Systematic reviews use a clear methodology to summarise research evidence on a specific topic. They address clearly defined questions, search two or more sources; provided clear inclusion and exclusion criteria; and incorporate a synthesis of included studies.