Plenary

P1 **IMPACT OF AUSTERITY ON FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN IN EUROPE**

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Aims To determine impact of austerity on families with disabled children across Europe.

Methods Cross-sectional electronic surveys in 25 languages disseminated via professional and family networks in 32 European countries December 2016 – February 2017.

Country comparison groups: United Kingdom (UK); countries where >50% professionals and families reported austerity cuts; remaining countries.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) indicators of severe poverty in rich and middle-income countries were integrated into the families' questionnaire: those reporting ≥four poverty indicators met severe poverty criteria.

Level of dependency of disabled child accounted for in analysis, using IBM SPSS Statistics, v23.

Results Responses received: 959 professionals (32 countries); 731 families (23 countries).

Family respondents: 29% (215/731) UK; 28% (275/731) other countries reporting austerity cuts; 33% (241/731) remaining countries.

45% (332/731) met UNICEF severe poverty criteria.

More UK families reported worsening quality of services compared to three years ago (112/215; 52.1%), than families not in poverty with completely dependent disabled children from remaining countries (14/69; 20%) ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 57.1$).

More UK families in poverty with completely dependent disabled children reported access more difficult than three years ago than any other respondent groups to: therapies (85%, 33/39); support in education (67%, 26/39); social care support (85%, 33/39); welfare support and benefits (79%, 31/39). Significantly fewer respondents from remaining countries reported more difficult access to services ($p < 0.001$ for all).

Families and professionals from remaining countries generally perceived health, education and social care needs were better addressed than 10 years ago, whilst most of all other comparison groups reported needs in all areas to be less well met ($p < 0.001$). UK families in severe poverty with completely dependent disabled children reported the greatest decline in how health, education and social care needs were met, compared to 10 years ago.

Conclusion Professional and family respondents across Europe experiencing austerity cuts reported a significant decline in quality of services received in the last three years and in how well health, educational and social care needs had been met over the last decade, compared to respondents from countries experiencing no austerity measures.

UK responses were significantly worse than from other countries. UK families with the most dependent disabled children living in poverty generally reported the worst experiences overall.

P2 **PATTERN OF DELAYS IN SEEKING LEGAL JUDGEMENTS TO WITHDRAW LIFE-SUSTAINING THERAPY**

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Aims In recent years legal judgements have being sought more frequently to allow withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy (LST) for patients in paediatric intensive care units (PICUs). Anecdotally, units can experience very long delays during the legal process. In order to clarify the current situation we have surveyed the medico-legal experience of UK PICUs over the last 5 years.

Methods A questionnaire was distributed to PICU Consultants with an interest in the medico-legal process in each UK PICU to collect relevant data.

Results Data was returned from 26 centres and a total of 15 cases were identified. 73% of children were under 1 year of age, 87% of children were under the age of 2 years. The interval between notifying the Trust medico-legal department and a first court date varied from 2 days to 16 weeks and the overall delay between notifying the Trust medico-legal department and obtaining a final judgement varied with a biphasic distribution; 31% of cases were dealt with as emergencies and concluded in less than 2 weeks, 61% of cases, considered more 'stable' took up to 6 months to resolve. 8% of cases took longer than 6 months to resolve, with the longest taking 14 months.

Conclusion Our findings demonstrate that whilst a minority of cases are dealt with promptly; around two-thirds of cases include considerable time delays. Prolonged admissions in this context result in extended periods of invasive treatment which are not in children's best interests, considerable disruption to families and siblings, and enormous stresses on PICU staff. In addition there is considerable financial cost in terms of resources and legal fees. PICU staff should engage with the Family Division of the High Court to develop a fast-track process for dealing with these cases.

P3 **SLEEP FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH: A PAN-UK SURVEY ON PAEDIATRICIANS' EXPERIENCE OF SLEEP AROUND SHIFT WORK**

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Aim Healthy sleep practices improve alertness and performance, with positive benefits to personal health and patient safety. Last year we surveyed the London School of Paediatrics (LSP) trainees' regarding their experience of night shifts. These were used to raise the profile of this issue, and to promote mandatory training on healthy sleep. We now sought to assess the impact of this educational drive, and to survey the experiences of all UK paediatricians on this topic.

Methods An online survey was created using Typeform and disseminated to all UK paediatricians via the RCPCH Heads of School, local TPDs and a link on e-portfolio.

Results 768 paediatricians responded, with participants from every UK deanery. Most represented were West Midlands (15%), London (13%) and Scotland (11%). 704 (92%) of respondents were trainees, representing roughly 16% of all

UK trainees. Outside of London 78% of respondents had never received any teaching on healthy sleep practices, and 94% stated they would find this beneficial. Within London 77% of respondents had received teaching, mostly during ST1 or local induction. 76% of paediatricians that received training altered either their core sleep practices (11%), their approach to night shift work (41%), or both (24%).

We then surveyed attitudes to the taking of short naps during statutory breaks on night shifts. Because of the LSP's on-going work to raise awareness on this issue, we separate London and non-London responses. Outside of London 36% of departments actively support naps, 25% actively discourage them. Within London 48% of departments support (an increase from 15% last year) and 10% discourage (a reduction from 30%). Unfortunately even where support is in place adequate facilities are lacking in over 50% of departments.

Conclusions Healthy sleep practices are important, in particular for shift workers. This survey of UK paediatricians demonstrates a lack for training in this area. When teaching is delivered, it results in a change in sleep practices in over 75% of cases. On-going work by the LSP to raise awareness of these issues has resulted in local departmental changes, however there remains much to improve, both locally and nationally.

P4 ADVERSE EXPERIENCES OF UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND THE IMPACT ON THEIR EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

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Background All Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) entering local authority care in England must have a holistic health assessment. Within our local authority this includes history and physical examination using a standardised proforma and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).

Methods Retrospective review of records from Jan – August 2016. Recording SDQ scores, experiences of abuse and mental health difficulties.

Results 99 UASC; median age 16 (range 12–17) years, 96% male. Ten nationalities, mostly Afghani 39% or Eritrean 35%. High levels of negative life experiences; 46% had experienced the death of a close family member; 75% not in contact with any family. In addition to adversity prior to departure, 51% experienced trauma en route to the UK. 32% reported detention, 27% physical assault and 12% were tortured. Libya was most commonly named, however European countries such as Belgium, Hungary and Bulgaria were also identified as locations of abuse. SDQ scores outside the normal range for emotional distress in 37%, peer relationships in 17% and overall stress in 13%. There was a statistically significant association (Fisher's exact test; $p=0.0003$) between high SDQ score for emotional distress and adverse experiences during transit to the UK. 43 (43%) were identified as needing referral to mental health services.

Discussion Data from our cohort demonstrates a high burden of distress, with large numbers of UASC experiencing abuse in transit to the UK. This is significantly associated with high levels of emotional distress in our cohort. The predictable need in this population should be accounted for in planning for and increasing access to mental health services.

P5 HORIZONTAL SCHOOLS-BASED HEALTH PROGRAMME IN RURAL KENYA: HEALTHSTART

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Background Children in low-income countries are at increased risk of poor health, which can affect attendance, cognition and ability to learn. Developing school health and nutrition strategies has been extensively highlighted as a global priority, with a particular focus on complex programme design and use of the FRESH framework. However, such programmes are relatively untested in low-income settings, despite that they may improve academic attendance and achievement.

Method We implemented a complex school health and nutrition programme in two schools in Western Kenya over 3 years, with a programme evaluation following the intervention. There were numerous outputs covering health policy, skills-based health education, infrastructure and disease prevention. A local non-governmental organisation, with involvement from local government and the community, performed programme implementation. Height-for-age, weight-for-age, height-for-weight, anaemia prevalence, academic performance and school attendance were the primary outcome measures.

Results The programme improved nutrition, academic performance and anaemia prevalence. The number of underweight children fell from 20% to 11% (OR 0.51 95% CI 0.39 to 0.68 $p\leq 0.01$) and stunting prevalence fell from 29.9% to 20% (OR 0.59 95% CI 0.50 to 0.68 $p\leq 0.01$). Academic performance improved with a 74% reduction in odds of failing assessments (OR 0.26 95% CI 0.22 to 0.29 $p\leq 0.01$). Anaemia prevalence fell from 17.2% to 11%. The programme showed an increase in low body mass index prevalence and no effect on school attendance, the reasons for which are unclear.

Discussion These results are encouraging and demonstrate that complex schools health programmes can lead to positive gains in health, nutrition and importantly academic performance. However they are not conclusive and there is a need for further evaluation of comprehensive school health interventions in poor communities.

P6 DO CHILDREN REALLY DIE FROM 'FLU? NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE FOR INFLUENZA RELATED SEVERE COMPLICATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

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Aims Severe complications and deaths due to influenza in children were reported during the 2009 influenza pandemic, but there are few reports for non-pandemic periods. We aimed to address this gap in knowledge by describing severe outcomes of influenza among Australian children from 2008 to 2016.

Methods We conducted surveillance through the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU) during July to September