Association of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

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PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING CONCERNS RAISED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SEEN IN A BUSY DISTRICT GENERAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DURING THE SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC

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10.1136/archdischild-2021-rcpch.474

Background The SARS-CoV-2 virus has had minimal direct impact on the physical health of children and young people (CYP). However, it has had much greater implications on their psychosocial wellbeing in terms of disruption to schooling and its inherent structuring of their lives as well as to the wider adult society. This work describes the impact we have seen in our busy London Emergency Department (ED) in terms of safeguarding concerns raised for under 18's since the start of the pandemic.

Objectives To highlight the number and types of safeguarding concerns raised by staff working in our ED to better inform education around identifying those in need and knowing how to signpost them to sources of support.

Methods Our Paediatric ED hosts a weekly multidisciplinary meeting to discuss all attendances of CYP under 18 where a safeguarding referral was made to Children's Social Care or where concerns were raised about the presentation by our Paediatric and Maternity Liaison Service (PMLS) who screen all ED notes. We have undertaken a retrospective review of the minutes of each meeting since the beginning of March 2020.

Results There was a marked decrease in ED attendances of under 18s from March 2020 – February 2021 (11,836) compared with the same period the previous year (21,864). Despite this a total of 817 cases (approx. 7% of attendances) were discussed in the 52 meetings since the pandemic started in March 2020.

An alert on the Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) was present for 21.5% of cases discussed.

Number of cases discussed per month:

March 2020	68
April 2020	28
May 2020	59
June 2020	64
July 2020	59
August 2020	83
September 2020	84
October 2020	62
November 2020	94
December 2020	91
January 2021	69
February 2021	56

The relatively few cases discussed in April mirrors the huge reduction in non-coronavirus-related presentations we saw across both the Adult and Paediatric ED that month.

Number of cases discussed per age group:

<5yo	164
5–9yo	55
10–14yo	204
15/16/17yo	394

Nearly half of all cases discussed (394) involved young people aged 15, 16 or 17 years old, for which their mental health was the commonest reason for a concern being raised (64% of cases). Almost 1 in 5 cases related to a concern about youth violence and its inherent risks. In 11% of these cases there was a concern about alcohol use and 12% of cases raised a concern of substance misuse (most commonly cannabis – both in smoked and edible forms).

Conclusions Despite a marked overall reduction in ED attendances we have continued to see a significant number of concerning presentations, particularly in those aged 15–17yo. This highlights the importance of staff working in ED understanding the concept of contextual safeguarding in order to identify those young people at risk of harm, whilst also feeling confident in communicating with this age group in order to best support them and signpost/refer them to relevant support agencies.

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TRELLO – COLLATING FOAMED AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

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10.1136/archdischild-2021-rcpch.475

Background Free open access medical education (FOAMed) is an increasingly utilised source of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Within paediatric emergency medicine, there are vast quantities of resources widely available. Staying up to date with latest resources can be difficult, and for some it can be overwhelming. As a result of a national lockdown during Covid-19 pandemic, medical education has moved primarily to online learning. Managing and organising teaching and education resources may be an added stressor for the busy paediatric trainee.

Objectives Our primary aim was to create a platform mapped to the RCPCH sub-specialty syllabus which will allow for collaborative input of resources, making it more accessible to stay up to date with latest FOAMed and improving trainee satisfaction. Our secondary aim was to create an online teaching network to allow for regional teaching sessions to be available to all trainees across the United Kingdom, allowing for increasing CPD opportunities.

Methods A survey was designed and distributed to paediatric sub-specialty trainees in the UK, assessing the need for service. Responses were anonymous and voluntary. Feedback suggested this resource would be eagerly welcomed and, therefore, the online platform Trello was used to create an education board using the RCPCH Paediatric Emergency Medicine sub-specialty syllabus learning outcomes. FOAMed was collated from a range of online sources, including national guidelines, medical blogs, and RCPCH and RCEM