impact of related national events, such as lockdowns and school closures, on these admissions was considered.

**Methods** Information was collected on all patients aged <18 years who required involvement of our local CAMHS service during their hospital admission over a 26 month period, 13 months ‘pre-COVID’ (January 2019-January 2020) and 13 months ‘post-COVID’ (February 2020-February 2021). Data recorded included: age, length of stay, presenting complaint, interventions required, need for registered mental health nurse (RMN) support during admission and discharge location.

**Results** The total number of mental health admissions remained static during the time period (average ‘pre-COVID’ admissions 13.9 young people/month and ‘post-COVID’ 14/month) with no change in the patient average age (mean 14.5 vs 15 years).

Despite a rising trend, there was no significant increase in the rates of young people acting upon their suicidal ideations (73% pre vs 80% post, p value 0.14) or the proportion requiring active medical treatment (most commonly N-acetyl-cysteine) following significant overdoses (12% vs 17.5%, p value 0.18).

However, young people presenting during the pandemic were significantly more likely to require RMN support whilst an inpatient (117% increase in demand, p≤0.001) and subsequently be discharged to somewhere other than their home address (p value 0.01) - either a tier 4 psychiatric bed (2.2% ‘pre-COVID’ vs 6.6% post) or a social care placement (2.2% vs 5.5%).

Patient numbers requiring detention under a Mental Health Act section or chemical sedation remained low throughout (all <1% in both periods).

**Conclusions** Young people with mental health concerns have frequently been discharged to somewhere other than their home (117% increase in demand, p value 0.01) - either a tier 4 psychiatric bed (2.2% ‘pre-COVID’ vs 6.6% post) or a social care placement (2.2% vs 5.5%).

Evidencing the increase in acuity of mental health presentations during the COVID-19 pandemic is important for both forward planning of acute care services and to ensure appropriate ongoing community mental health support to this vulnerable patient group, particularly as the long-lasting health impacts remain to be determined.

**REFERENCE**

Conclusions The outcome measure showed a significant and sustained improvement. At the end of the study period, 63.2% of 16- and 17-year-olds had an appropriately actioned CP-IS check in ED, up from 1.8%.

Some inaccurate recordings were picked up via the balancing measure. This appeared to have resolved by the end of the study period.

Paediatric Mental Health Association

PREVALENCE OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) AMONG A GROUP OF LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FROM A NORTH-WEST LOCAL AUTHORITY

Michael Ogundele, Nasreen Zaidi. Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Background The UK Department of Health has produced guidance on the statutory health assessment required for identifying and managing their health needs. It is well known that Children and young people (CYP) under public care are at increased risk of both mental and physical health needs compared to those living within their birth families. There are many factors known to influence the high vulnerabilities of looked after CYP to high levels of morbidities. There is a high rate of previous experience of adverse traumatic events including neglect and abuse, family deprivation, poverty, disharmony and disruption, parental vulnerability to drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health disorder, as well as genetic predisposition and subsequent instability experienced while in public care.

Objectives We aimed to identify and itemise the range of adverse or traumatic childhood experiences among the LACYP, with the intention of informing better targeted preventive measures from all stakeholders involved in their care.

Methods The healthcare records of all the CYP who were referred for the statutory Initial health assessment (IHA) between Apr 2019 and Mar 2020, under the care of the Halton Local Authority were reviewed retrospectively. The audit was carried out as part of the Clinical Governance strategy and no ethical approval was required.

Results Data was available for a total of 82 LAC aged between 6 months and 19 years (averaged 8 yrs), with 51 Males/31 Females. One patient failed to attend the clinic. All the LAC had at least one or more identifiable adverse risk factors. A total of 21 socio-emotional risk factors recorded, classified into categories:

- Parental (94%) such as abuse in childhood, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health problems, and Learning Difficulties;
- Family-related insults (80%) such as parental neglect and exposure to domestic violence;
- Prenatal insults (62%) such as intra-uterine exposure to stress, tobacco, drugs and alcohol;
- Child-related factors (40%) such as physical, emotional or sex abuse, incomplete immunization and poor school attendance.

Each LACYP was exposed to an average of 5 risk factors including parental (2.5), family (1), child-related (1) and Intra-uterine (0.5).

Conclusions This audit confirms that CYP in public care have significantly higher risks of exposure to adverse traumatic experiences compared with the normal childhood population. Socio-economic deprivation and attachment difficulties in LACYP are known to significantly contribute to their development including impaired speech, language and communication (SLC) skills, which often remain largely undetected in 60% to 80% of cases.

It emphasises the need for comprehensive assessment and provision of early integrated care for LAC of all ages, working across a wide range of setting and involving multi-agency collaborations between the schools, social care, healthcare and the voluntary sectors.

It is recommended that every LACYP should be offered comprehensive multidisciplinary assessments to help identify the impact of biological, psychological and social factors on their individuality.

British Paediatric Neurology Association

PARENTAL PERSPECTIVE: ‘GOOGLE’ DIAGNOSIS OF GENETICALLY WILLIAM-LIKE SYNDROME (MICRODELETION OF CHROMOSOME 7Q11.23)

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Background Genetic diagnosis has been increasingly made every day as part of investigation in childhood illness or neu-rodvelopment assessment. At its current stage, the genetic testing was more educational or scientific purposes only and parent need to understand this before agreeing to it. We interviewed the parents of a 10-year-old boy who had had genetic testing and misunderstood it with a well-known diagnosis of William’s syndrome due to ‘google’ research.

Objectives Nil

Methods Case Report 10 years old boy who is known to our services for multiple clinical needs. He was first diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 3 and required antiepileptic medication. Several years later, he was referred to paediatric community
AN EXPERIENCE IN MANAGING A CHILDHOOD STROKE CASE ACCORDING TO THE NEW 2017 STROKE GUIDELINE: A DGH PERSPECTIVE

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Background Introduction: Childhood stroke, although rare, occurs and can cause significant long-term morbidity. Compared to adult’s stroke, paediatric stroke is a heterogeneous entity, both of aetiology and presentation. This makes accurate and timely diagnosis challenging. In 2017, new paediatric stroke guideline, endorsed by RCPCH/Stroke Association, was published to address these challenges.

Objectives We presented 2 similar cases of childhood stroke that happened before and after the publication of the guideline. The second case demonstrated how we adapted current guidelines into the management of the patient.

Methods Case 1 (2011): 3-year-old girl presented with inability to stand and left hand weakness while playing in the garden. Examination revealed weakness to both arm and leg, with facial droop. No history of trauma. CT head was reported to be normal. She was given aspirin and arranged for transfer to tertiary centre the day after for MR/MRA imaging which confirmed stroke.

Case 2 (2020): 3-year-old girl presented with left sided facial droop, weakness of left side of her body and slurred speech during family visit to the safari park. The new 2017 guideline was used to aid assessment and management. She scored 6 of PedNIHSS and both CT and CTA was normal. Her assessment and imaging was done within thrombolyis window (4.5 hours). She was transferred to tertiary centre afterwards. MRA confirmed right MCA territory acute infarct.

Conclusions Despite the new stroke guideline, we encountered several challenges in managing the child in the DGH settings. The assessment and imaging were significantly delayed due difficulty in assessing children, unfamiliarity with the new guidelines, difficulty in reporting paediatric neuroradiology imaging and absence of clear guidance with regards to thrombolysis administration in children. This experience has highlighted the need for regional paediatric stroke assessment centre and decision-making for thrombolysis.

British Association of Child and Adolescent Public Health

EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH NEEDS OF LOOKED CHILDREN IN A NORTH WEST LOCAL AUTHORITY: NEED FOR MORE INTEGRATED CARE APPROACH

Michael Ogundele, Nasreen Zaidi. Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Background Children and young people (CYP) under public care are more vulnerable to mental and physical health morbidity than their peers living within birth families, due to previous experience of neglect and abuse, deprivation and poverty, genetic predisposition and subsequent instability experienced while looked-after. Previous research has shown that two-thirds of looked-after Children (LAC) are reported to have one physical complaint compared to 19% of boys and 17% of girls having a longstanding illness or disability.

Objectives We aimed to identify the profile of physical and emotional health needs among a cohort of LAC within a Local Borough of North West England.

Methods We carried out a retrospective audit of the healthcare records for all the LAC referred for initial health assessment (IHA) between the period of April 2019 and March 2020.

Results 82 LAC aged between 6 months and 19 years (averaged 8 yrs 2 months) were assessed during the one-year period. There was a male preponderance of 64% (51 males and 31 females). Each of them had an average of 4 multidisciplinary professionals (3.8 ± 2) and three physical/mental health diagnoses (3.5 ± 2.5. The preschool children (1 to 4 years old) were the largest group of children among the cohort. ). The number of diagnosed problems ranged between 0 and 13. 62 (76%) of the LAC had at least one physical diagnosis, 41 (50%) were diagnosed with emotional/behavioural difficulties (EBD), 39 (48%) had disabilities/neurodevelopmental problems while 19 (23%) had perinatal disorders (Prematurity at birth, previous neonatal abstinence (withdrawal) syndrome and intra-uterine growth retardation.

The commonest emotional/behavioural problems were behaviour difficulties (33%), emotional problems including anxiety (33%), Smoking (13%), other substance misuse (11%), self-harm (7%) and Attachment difficulties (2%).

The commonest physical illnesses were Dental caries (27%), overweight/obesity (21%), congenital heart defects (8%), Eczema (8%), asthma/hay fever and chronic constipation (7%) each.

Perinatal problems were identified in 19 (23%) of the LAC. These included prematurity at birth (21%), neonatal abstinence syndrome (2.4%) and intra-uterine growth retardation (1%).

The commonest disabilities/neurodevelopmental disorders were visual impairment (18%), speech and language delay (15% total and 8% below 5 years) and learning difficulties (10%). Sleep difficulties was identified in 12 LAC (15%) with