Results From the start of the first lockdown 23rd March 2020 until the easing of restrictions on 15th June 2020 we discharged 23 long stay patients. The length of stay prior to discharge varied from 19–866 days. The median time to discharge in this group was 22 days from the start of lockdown. The barriers to discharge varied from need for housing and care provision to social care support. Apart from improvement in length of stay we also were able to solve problems innovatively by working together. Cots and white goods were sourced through social care funds and ordered on amazon by our occupational therapists. Donated housing capacity was identified by our covid command structure facilitated families moving there temporarily instead of staying in hospital. A local hospice was able to provide care for the most complex of our patients whilst awaiting onwards placements in social care and carer training. The feedback from stakeholders following discharge was used to refine processes. There were no adverse outcomes or readmissions. **Conclusions** This period of global health crisis has been devastating for many. In amongst the tragedy, there are glimmers of learning that would not have been achieved without this unprecedented challenge. This rapid discharge process is one such glimmer. It demonstrates that by working together across agency boundaries, thinking innovatively and putting the children and families at the heart of what we do, we can effect rapid change. We now need to harness and retain this learning to be able to continue sending children home

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Paediatric Educators' Special Interest Group

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SOFT LANDING PROJECT, THE LAUNCHING EVENT AND PROPOSED FUTURE EVENTS

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Background Many International Medical Graduate (IMG) Paediatricians move to the UK to work and thrive in the NHS. We know from our own experience as IMG paediatricians adjusting to the NHS, that this transition is not always smooth. We face many challenges that can contribute to differential attainment (DA) between IMG and UK trained paediatricians. While there is some support available this can be highly variable. The 'Soft Landing' project arose out of a recognition of this gap, and a desire to share our lived experience to provide the easily accessible support to newly arrived IMGs, that we wish we had had.

Objectives The Soft Landing project is a voluntary UK wide support network, founded by IMG paediatricians. Its objective

is to lead to a smoother transition to work and train in the NHS for IMG paediatricians. We aim to achieve this by providing customised training, mentoring, signposting and peer support, by IMGs who are further established in their UK careers. We expect this to lead to better career satisfaction and retention of IMG trainees.

Methods We launched our project via social media platforms, using our faculties established IMG networks, as well as presenting to RCPCH, London School of Paediatrics (LSP) Trainee Committees, and to the GMC.

Our first day-long course, entitled 'Supporting paediatricians new to the NHS' took place in February 2021. The talks presented during this workshop were designed and tailored to the needs of IMG paediatricians new to the system, highlighting cultural differences and common pitfalls. Our regular courses and webinars include ST1/ST4 interview practice, GRID applications, communication skills, safeguarding, applying to training, wellbeing, smashing ARCPs, revalidation and untangling Kaizen/E-portfolio.

Results Following the launch of Soft Landings there was a lot of interest in engaging with the project from individuals and organisations, as a result of outreach mentioned above.

Our first day long course 'Supporting paediatricians new to the NHS' had a waiting list of >30 candidates. 30 candidates secured slots and attended the course. 33% started working in the NHS recently (<6 months), 30% between 6 months to 1 year, 9% for over 1 year and a further 9% for more than 5 years. 27% were working overseas and planning to move to the UK shortly. The feedback from participants was very positive. Following the course, 100% will signpost their new IMG paediatric colleagues to this resource. 82% rated it as excellent while 17% rated it very good. 100% agreed that they now had a better understanding of the NHS dynamics and expectations from the paediatric doctors in the NHS. 100% thought that they would implement positive changes in their practice. Many said they would benefit from a mentor.

Conclusions IMG paediatric doctors are a valuable part of the NHS workforce. By providing the right support, struggles will be turned into productivity and fulfilled potential, and levels of anxiety and stress in everyday work lives would be reduced. The Soft Landing support can contribute to recruitment and improved retention, better patient care, and reduction of differential attainment.

Paediatric Clinical Leaders: Service Planning, Provision and Best Practice

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PAEDIATRIC TRAINING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE VOICE OF 638 TRAINEES

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Background High quality paediatric training is essential to the provision of excellent child health care both now and in the future. To ensure a high standard of training is maintained within The London School of Paediatrics, an annual trainee