

Response ID ANON-BKEV-6412-N

Submitted to **Clinical Pathway for Children and Young People who have disclosed sexual abuse**

Submitted on **2019-07-22 14:12:51**

Section 1: Introduction

1 Do you believe the pathway would improve and standardise services for children who have disclosed sexual abuse and their families?

Yes

If not, what improvements would you suggest? :

It will so long as the pathway is clear for all healthcare practitioners to use. For dentists, this needs to be a user-friendly resource where disclosure of sexual abuse is not a regular occurrence. When it is disclosed, this pathway must be in a format that is easily accessible by all members of the dental team who may receive the disclosure. Primary care dentistry is busy during clinical hours and referring to a long document is not practical, particularly when staff will not be using this pathway regularly. A dental specific version or supplementary dental guide would be useful.

"It is not intended for this resource to be read cover to cover, rather, this resource is split into a number of chapters for easy access". In the current form this will be of little use to dental teams (except for the flow chart) as it is too much like a report than a toolkit or pathway. Alongside this should be an easy to use tool for practitioners who need to apply some of this pathway in their practices. Some of it can be read as a background document but as a useful tool it needs an accompanying streamlined document.

2 Are there any key areas of research missing, or any general amendments you would suggest?

Are there any key areas of research missing, or any general amendments you would suggest?:

The clinical pathway assumes that all healthcare practitioners know exactly what to do when they receive a disclosure. Whilst some healthcare professionals may receive training in receiving a disclosure, dentists are unlikely to have received the same training. Whilst they have their professional training, this is an area across the UK that is not covered in depth. It would be helpful in ensuring that in order to follow the pathway, that healthcare professionals including dentists and their teams are equipped to receive the disclosure in the first place.

3 Do you have any further general comments on the pathway document?

3. Do you have any further general comments on the pathway document? :

As per question 1. the pathway needs to be a useful tool for practitioners and there needs to be a short separate document that is easy to use particularly for dental practices. It is likely that dental practices will be undertaking only the first two stages on the flowchart and also the management of healthcare need if appropriate and relevant to the patient's oral health. It is unlikely that dentists will perform a medical examination in the context of this pathway so something that is profession specific would be helpful. [See answer to question 1 section 4]

Section 2: Context

1 Do you agree with the context given in the pathway document?

Yes

If not, which key areas or research you would like to be added, amended or removed?:

The context and prevalence section raise awareness but as a toolkit it is unlikely to be revisited more than once. In its current format – how often are practitioners expected to use this? Is it every time they receive a disclosure of abuse or is this information embedded in regular safeguarding training? As it stands it is not very clear and as a result, we suggest it will probably not be looked at very often. To embed this, it will need to be very easy to use and not time onerous.

Section 3: Clinical Pathway

1 Do you agree with the aims of the pathway?

Yes

If not, why not? :

Dentists are likely to be involved in bullet points 1-4 to a greater or lesser extent. They cannot however participate in bullets 5 and 6 around providing trauma support or around medical examinations. There is minimal support out there for dentists to help them provide patients who have previously experienced sexual abuse or trauma with a bespoke level of care.

2 Do you agree with the layout and content of the pathway process?

No

If not, what improvements would you suggest? :

The flowchart is a useful tool but having to refer to other sections makes it less useful as an immediate clinical tool.

Section 4: Medical Examination

1 Do you agree with the medical examination section of the pathway?

No

If not, why not? :

Please could you clarify what you mean by medical examination under forensic standards? Most dental practitioners do not have the paediatric/ forensic dentistry skills to take part in medical examination. If a dental assessment is deemed necessary as part of this, then this will be done by specialist colleagues. Dentists will be involved in this process mostly at the 'Management of Healthcare Needs' stage. Clinicians should be kept fully apprised of the patient's status and background, so that this can be used to tailor their dental care package.

2 Do you have any further comments or suggested amendments to the medical examination section of the pathway document?

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As above, more clarification needs to be given particularly to dentists about the term 'medical examination'.

Section 5: Appendices

1 Do you have any comments on the appendices of the pathway document?

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No

Section 6: Final comments

1 Do you have any comments or additions on topics which are not covered in previous sections? Please be specific in your reasons and include any resources or references we should consider.

Do you have any comments or additions on topics which are not covered in previous sections? Please be specific in your reasons and include any resources or references we should consider.:

In order to ensure the main aim of the document is met i.e. a "resource to outline the process for the healthcare response to disclosures by children and young people of sexual abuse of any kind" then front line clinicians (in this case dentists and their teams) should receive training on what to do when they receive a disclosure and how to act and react. This will have a pivotal effect on the rest of the pathway, and it is vital that this step is identified and included.

About you

What is your name?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

British Dental Association

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.: