

Implementation of the Facing the Future Standards for Acute General Paediatric Services

This revision of the Facing the Future Standards for Acute General Paediatric Services marks a move towards ensuring that paediatrics is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week specialty and that services are organised around the child with quick access to an expert opinion.

The RCPCH accepts that implementation of the standards will necessitate a greater degree of consultant presence than has been the case but believes that these standards will bring a level of consistency to what is currently quite a variable pattern of practice. The RCPCH believes that the direction of travel (over the next five years) is to implement 12 hour consultant presence, seven days a week.

These standards should complement a clinical director's role to facilitate discussions between neighbouring units on how the standards might be met by working as a bigger team in network configurations. Further consideration about how the standards can be applied to small and remote paediatric units is available on the RCPCH website

To deliver the revised standards it is clear from the response to the consultation exercise that the number of general acute consultants needs to increase. The standards cannot be met across the UK with the current workforce and the current number of inpatient units and the five key interlocking messages in the original Facing the Future report are even more crucial with these revisions

1. Reduce the number of inpatient sites
2. Increase the number of consultants
3. Expand significantly the number of registered children's nurses
4. Expand the number of GPs trained in paediatrics
5. Decrease the number of paediatric trainees

Further consideration of the workforce needed to deliver the revised standards is available on the [RCPCH website](#)

The RCPCH continues to call for a concentration of inpatient services on fewer sites, where it is clinically safe to do so, and for an increase in consultant numbers. The RCPCH has also been actively supporting the Royal College of General Practitioners' proposals to extend GP training to accommodate greater exposure to paediatrics and children's health.

The standards should be considered together with the [Facing the Future: Together for Child Health](#) standards which aim to reduce the number of children attending emergency departments and the number of emergency admissions to hospital.

The RCPCH cannot implement these standards alone and will require support and agreement from other NHS organisations. This plan sets out how the RCPCH will implement the standards by:

- Supporting and equipping members with the information and skills to influence at a local level
- Supporting services to implement the standards
- Encouraging services to work together in regional networks to implement the standards
- Continuing discussions and negotiation between the RCPCH and key stakeholders at a national policy level

	website.
Benchmarking service provision	<p>Workforce implications: Modelling of the implications of the revised standards on the paediatric workforce</p> <p>Audit of the standards Audit of the revised standards across the UK by RCPCH in 2016/17.</p> <p>Outcome measures: The RCPCH is developing a set of five to ten <u>outcome measures</u> for acute paediatric services which are relevant to patients and carers, to clinicians and to service planners and commissioners.</p> <p>Invited Review Service: The RCPCH <u>Invited Review Service</u> aims to support healthcare organisations and</p>

3. Regional level Encouraging services to work together in regional networks to implement the standards

Supporting the development of networks	<p>Bringing Networks to Life: <u>Bringing Networks to Life</u> provides advice, checklists and examples to clinicians in developing and maintaining networks to provide services across a large geographical area.</p> <p>High Dependency Care for Children <u>High Dependency Care for Children</u> provides a set of recommendations to improve the care of the critically ill child. It focuses on the journey of the child through a critical care pathway and how the different elements of the pathway can be delivered across a paediatric critical care operational delivery network</p>
Training and supporting educators	<p>Effective Educational Supervision Programme: <u>The Effective Educational Supervision Programme</u> by the College specifically targets paediatric trainees, SAS doctors and consultants, to ensure that all educational supervisors who work with junior doctors and medical students receive training in educational supervision.</p> <p>Paediatric Educators' Programme: <u>The Paediatric Educators' Programme</u> aims to equip paediatricians with the knowledge and skills required to deliver high quality training and education to healthcare professionals in paediatrics and child health.</p>

4. National level: Continuing discussions and negotiation between the RCPCH and key stakeholders at a national policy level (influencing the influence)s

Engaging and influencing key external stakeholders	<p>Launch and associated publicity: Raise the profile of the revised standards through comment pieces and interviews in key trade press and by attending key events.</p> <p>Individual meetings with key stakeholders across the four nations: A targeted approach and dialogue with identified key stakeholders across the four nations. For example, the College is already working with the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum, a key external stakeholder, to raise the profile and support implementation of both Facing the Future: Standards for Acute General Paediatric Services and Facing the Future: Together for Child Health. For example, RCPCH has worked closely with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in England in the development of their acute and community inspection methodology. All reviewers are aware of the Facing the Future standards. In preparing its data pack in advance of inspections CQC has been asked to request from trusts their individual compliance report from the Back to Facing the Future audit as RCPCH cannot share the data directly under the terms of its collection. Information about compliance informs the judgement and the practical feedback from the expert inspectors ensures that the judgements are appropriate and for context and not simply numerically based.</p>
--	---

Ensuring children