



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

Scottish Pharmacy Board

Scottish Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is pleased to respond to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) Inquiry

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in Scotland, England and Wales. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy. The Society leads and supports the development of the profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy.

The Scottish Pharmacy Board of the RPSGB represents over 4,400 pharmacists in Scotland, working in all areas of the profession including community, hospital, primary care, industry, education, the prison service, and research.

The board is pleased to have the opportunity to provide evidence to the Health and Sport Committee and the comments below relate to questions one to four of the consultation:

- How children and adolescents potentially at risk of developing mental health problems are identified and how those problems should be prevented.
- What obstacles there are in identifying children and adolescents with mental health problems and how they might be overcome
- What action is being taken to facilitate early intervention and what else can be done
- How access to services and ongoing support can be improved.

A multi-disciplinary approach and integration of all services involved in public health is essential to have maximum impact on HEAT targets and to improve health inequalities. Pharmacists can contribute to this approach using their unique opportunities, especially in local communities, to engage with public and patients.

Pharmacists are readily accessible and see patients and their families informally sometimes on a daily basis for a range of healthcare requirements. They are able to observe changes in circumstances and deteriorating health which warrant intervention and are sometimes the only health professional in contact with certain sectors of the population. Referral to other health professionals and sign-posting can be of great patient benefit. Pharmacists already use direct referral to out of hours GPs when, in

their professional judgement, medical attention is urgently required. Expansion of the referral system between health and social services would be advantageous.

The forthcoming chronic medication service in the community pharmacy contract will provide an opportunity for medication review and greater clinical interaction with mental health patients. It will be a means of offering ongoing support and increasing patient understanding of their medicines, thus improving concordance and stability.

Consideration must be given to workforce planning and resources if the contribution of pharmacists is to be fully developed, in particular as the chronic medication service is expanded.

Pharmacist's expertise lies in medicines and pharmaceutical care. Specialist pharmacists in mental health can be used to provide education and information sessions to other health professionals and carers to promote greater understanding of the drugs used in mental health conditions.

The Scottish Pharmacy board recognises that a multi- faceted approach is required We would urge the committee to include pharmacy services and the expertise of specialist mental health pharmacists as part of a wide reaching strategic plan to utilise and harness the expertise available within the NHS and social care networks for maximum patient benefit.



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