

[ET-34] A REGIONAL STAFF SURVEY OF CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING TRAINING IN EAST OF ENGLAND HOSPITALS

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Introduction:

Following Victoria Climbié's murder and other similar events in the UK in recent years, there have been renewed efforts at tackling child maltreatment at all levels. Since 2004, all health care professionals are required to receive training in safeguarding children. This survey sought to explore the general knowledge of hospital staff in child protection in the East of England.

Methodology:

An online questionnaire was disseminated among the staff of 17 acute hospitals in the East of England over 6 weeks' period. Respondents were presented with a set of questions on the recognition and response to child maltreatment.

Results:

Of the 753 responses received, 90% were routinely informed of availability of children safeguarding training. 94% had the appropriate training. 86% knew how to find the relevant information on safeguarding children. 94% will discuss safeguarding concerns with senior staff. Only 15% knew that the prevalence rate of physical abuse among children is <10%. 81% will obtain advice from designated professionals for safeguarding children if worried about breach of confidentiality. 31% were previously involved in a child protection procedure, of whom, 56% knew its outcome. Most respondents knew the recognised risk factors for child maltreatment. 50% respondents indicated that lack of administrative support and litigations can hamper reporting children maltreatment.

Conclusion:

Safeguarding training is continuously offered to hospital staff in the East of England. Respondents showed good knowledge of safeguarding issues. However more can be done to help staff respond to different situations of child maltreatment concerns. Professionals should be reassured that they will be supported regardless of the outcome of a safeguard procedure.

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