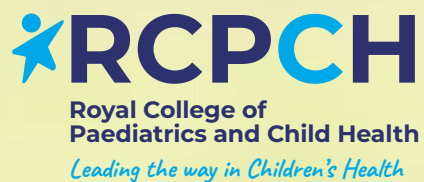


# Our Impact



**Supporting  
members and  
children during  
COVID-19**



# Reset, restore, recover

Earlier this year, the College produced our normal Annual Review. So far, so good. And yet, between completing our work and sharing it with you, the world changed. What seemed a slow trickle with COVID-19 became a stream which very quickly became a tidal wave and **suddenly we had to adapt to new challenges, at pace and under extraordinary pressure.**

As we start to restore services, we wanted to take stock. Firstly, to say thank you to all our members; those who supported colleagues in other specialties; those who have had their training disrupted but carried on under immense pressure; those who have reassured and worked tirelessly for children, young people and families; and those who have found new, innovative ways to work and help patients.

We also want to share with you the work the College has been doing to support you on so many levels. Its action on policy and advocacy to keep child health high on the political agenda, using our collective voice to raise what matters, and providing guidance for paediatric services on the ground in the COVID-19 response.

As a College, we've also had to be agile and think differently across training, exams, courses, our global work and even moving our Annual Conference online. **Our COVID-19 Impact Report sets out the work we have done over a short space of time to remember and reflect on all we have achieved so that we keep the spirit of innovation and action driving us through the coming months and years.**

Resetting, restoring and recovering children's services will be core to what we do next through what looks like a difficult winter and beyond. We will continue to keep you informed of our plans and encourage you to get involved and support the College in whatever way you can.

Once again, **my thanks to all of you and to the staff at the College for the positive difference you're making on child health in what has been an extremely challenging period.**



**Russell Viner**  
RCPCH President



Photo: Lewisham Hospital © RCPCH






# Advocating for children, young people and families



## 70,000

children and young people have voiced their lockdown experiences across the UK, collated and shared via our CYP voices portal, supporting easy access to their voices to inform decision making.

## Evidence

-  **We met with policy makers and politicians** from across parties and the four nations to influence decision making around child health.
-  **We reviewed over 12,000 papers for our COVID-19 research summaries** and ran three BPSU studies on different aspects of the pandemic – these include neonates diagnosed with COVID-19, delayed presentations and Paediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (PIMS).
-  **We created a real-time tracker of research studies** as they were published and helped members gather and submit data correctly to support our understanding and knowledge of how COVID-19 is affecting children and young people.
-  **We collected data on service capacity, staffing, PPE, testing and child health outcomes** and reported the results weekly on our website to support service planning, and as a tool to influence government and decision makers.
-  **We created a COVID-19 Book Club** with young people reviewing published studies of lockdown experiences.



# Influence

- ✧ Across the nations, our work on topics including **school closures, shielding, PIMS and staffing** were raised with national governments and contributed to change in Government policies.
- ✧ In Wales and Scotland, our **Clinical Leads forums offered clinicians a space to share thinking and guidance**, as well as supporting our work advising the National Governments.
- ✧ We encouraged parents and paediatricians to ensure they were **accessing the right care, at the right time and in the right place** and worked with NHS 111 to ensure that parents were able to get fast care for children when they needed it.

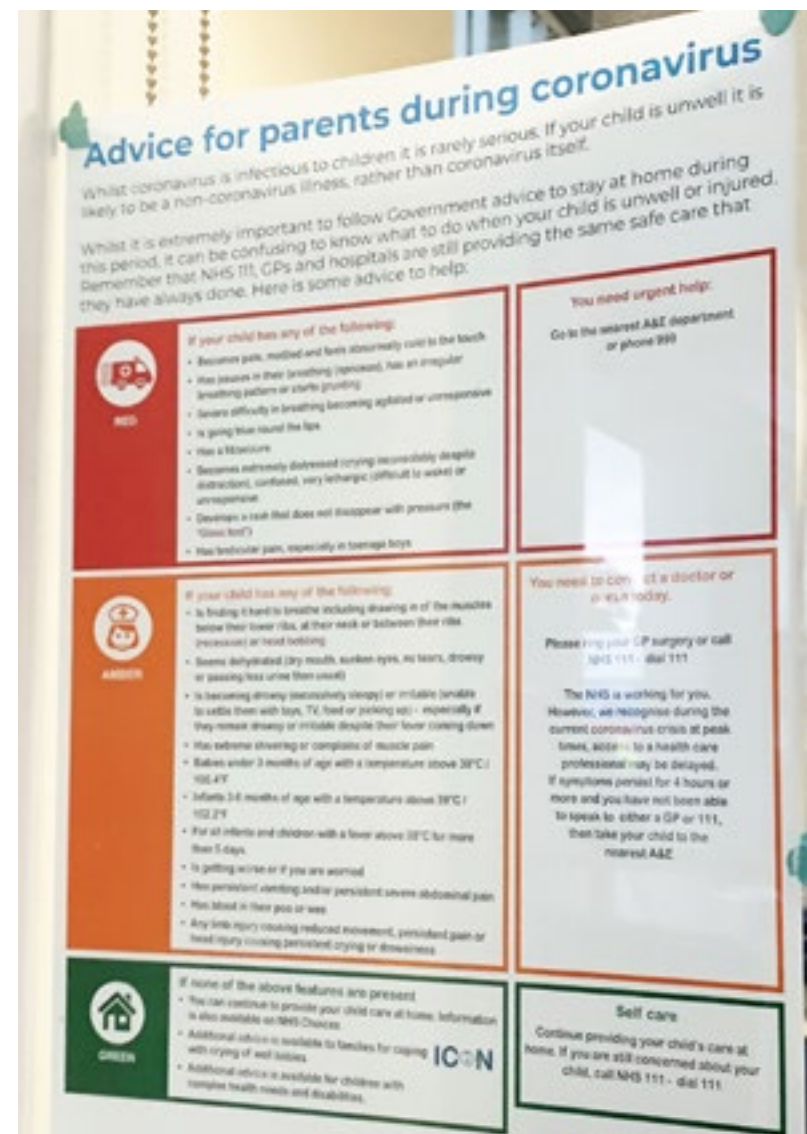
## Paediatric service guidance

We created over 15 guidance papers for paediatric services, **helping paediatricians and the broader child health workforce** on the ground.

- ✧ Our policy team developed **evidence based guidance on the shielding of clinically vulnerable children** and we successfully influenced the UK government to adopt our guidance.
- ✧ We published **the first case definition for Paediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome** - which was subsequently taken up by the US Paediatric Society.
- ✧ Our pandemic experiences report **used children and young people's perspectives and concerns to shape our plans** and position statements.

## Parent advice and guidance

We've supported parents with advice about **seeking help for your children during COVID-19** and the importance of keeping up vaccinations and 8-week checks.



# Our Advice

# Over 2,500

paediatricians signed our open letter to encourage schools to reopen and highlighting the broader child health issues around school closures and lockdowns



# 3.9 million

Twitter impressions for our advocacy, children and young people and public facing messages from the end of March through to July 2020

# 6,500

media mentions during the COVID-19 period...

...and **582**  
broadcast segments

# 5

front page stories

# Engage

# Providing guidance to members



# Support

- ✧ We created a dedicated section on our website to signpost **resources and ideas to support your wellbeing** during this period.
- ✧ Our global team have been securing our programmes and **supporting our partners around the world** remotely while planning for the safe return of volunteers in the future.
- ✧ We wanted to say **thank you to all our members working so hard over this period**, so we launched a daily THANK YOU with artwork from children and young people across the country.

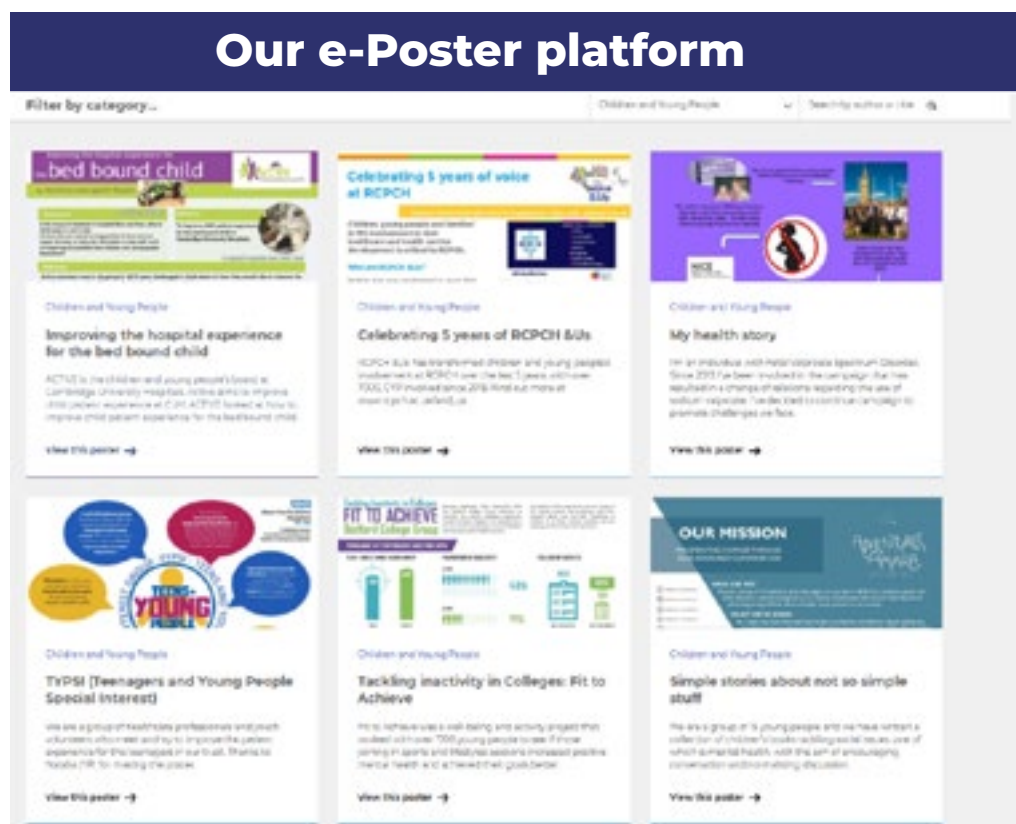
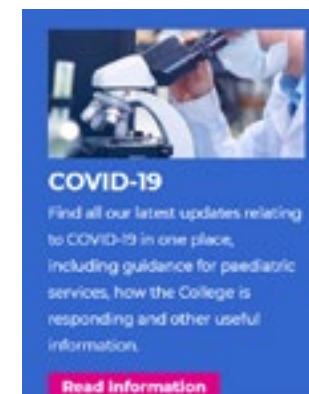
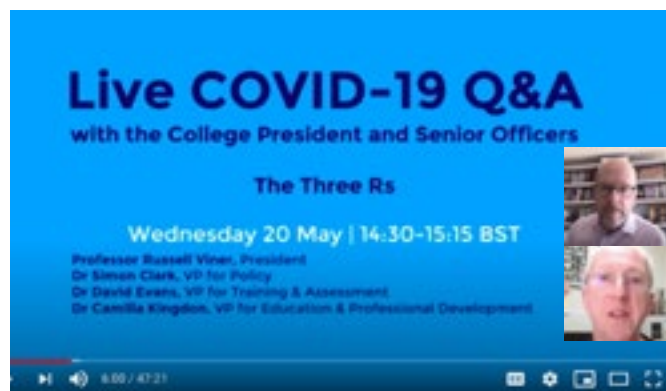
We created a Stay at Home activity pack and child health diary to support young patients between appointments.





✧ We moved our services **online**, from exam support courses, online learning and developing the process for running our GRID interviews, START and clinical and theory exams remotely to ensure **we continue to support your education and development.**

✧ We kept you informed through **live Q&A's, webinars, emails and a weekly blog** from our President, Russell Viner.



✧ We had to cancel our Annual Conference but we are running **RCPCH Conference 2020 Online**, and featuring an exciting ePosters platform to share learning and best practice on some of the themes we would have addressed at Conference.

✧ We worked with the General Medical Council (GMC) and training bodies across the four nations to ensure clarity and support for all our members. We've reassured and **supported our trainees and trainers with our COVID-19 Trainers Report**, guidance in ePortfolio and being on hand to discuss questions and concerns.



# 165

staff working remotely since  
the start of lockdown in the UK

✧ We moved all our committees to virtual meetings and our **Annual General Meeting was held online for the first time**, making it easy to stay connected and manage College business during this period.

✧ Our COVID-19 response featured **weekly meetings of the President, Senior Officers and National Officers**, a clinical expert group, and daily policy and communications meetings to aid our rapid planning.

✧ We supported staff through enhanced internal communications, staff briefings, **established a mental health first aider scheme**, provided eLearning, as well as provided staff voice in our newly launched Employee Forum.

✧ We closed our office in response to Government advice to keep our staff safe and **enabled remote working for all staff to continue supporting our members** and advocating for child health.

# The College



# Next steps



Credit: Sunshine Seeds / Shutterstock.com



Credit: Andrius Kazilunas / Shutterstock.com

- ✧ We're working with NHS England on a **new service evaluation and audit** exploring how and where children with COVID-19 were treated in hospitals.
- ✧ We will be **campaigning to make child health a priority** for the forthcoming elections in Scotland and Wales.
- ✧ We are providing increased online learning and are investing heavily in the technologies which will enable us to **safeguard career progression, high standards of examination** and assessment and allow our trainees to move forward in the UK and worldwide.
- ✧ We are **working with international partners and national health ministries** in Myanmar, Rwanda and Sierra Leone to support their paediatric services throughout COVID-19 and continue to remotely support our international development work in these regions.
- ✧ We are working to ensure children are at the centre of winter planning this year, **ensuring services are integrated, well resourced, equitable and prioritised.**

# Our Impact

## Supporting members and children during COVID-19



### RCPCH COVID-19 useful links:

- [Information hub](#)
- [Paediatric services guidance](#)
- [Research summaries](#)
- [Shielding guidance](#)
- [PIMS case definition](#)
- [Wellbeing](#)
- [Trainee progression](#)
- [RCPCH Conference online](#)
- [Global programmes](#)
- [Parents resources](#)
- [Children and young people's views](#)
- [Stay at home activities for children and young people](#)
- [President's blog](#)
- [News](#)