

NHS Group
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
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12 September 2014

Re: Refreshing the NHS Outcomes Framework 2015-16

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation. While we are very pleased to see health outcomes for children and young people included as one of the four areas in which you would like to make improvements, we are concerned about the lack of specific new indicators for children and young people in the proposals.

We are concerned about the broadness of the questions and the lack of focus when so much has already been produced. We are aware that the Co-Chair, Christine Lenehan, has sent a letter to you on behalf of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum. Our RCPCH members on the Forum entirely support the view of the Forum. Several RCPCH members, including our President Dr Hilary Cass, as members of the Forum have contributed to the Forum reports and in the production of the Forum's outcomes and measures. This includes the 2012 report (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216852/CYP-report.pdf), the 2013 system response (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/214928/9328-TSO-2900598-DH-SystemWideResponse.pdf) and the 2014 annual report (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307011/CYPHOF_Annual_Report_201314_FORMAT_V1.5.pdf). Any review of the Outcomes Framework needs to reflect the large amount of work already completed.

It is also of concern that indicators are removed if data collection is deemed unreliable – it should be a priority to address gaps in data sources, seek better data and better IT to link datasets to support patient outcomes

The RCPCH has recently launched a new project to develop a set of outcomes measures for acute paediatric services. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and share this work which may inform future iterations of the Outcomes Framework.

We have responded to your specific questions (see attached document) where we feel we have specific expertise and knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Carol Ewing
Vice-President for Health Policy
RCPCH