

P01-202 - SCHOOL REFUSAL

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Introduction: The issue of school attendance is currently the focus of intense activity in Schools & Local Educational Authorities in England. The latest figures from the Department for Schools, Children and Families shows the overall absenteeism as 6.26%, in England. It is thought approximately 1 to 5 percent of all school-aged children have school refusal (Fremont, 2003) and is one of the reason of School non attendance.

Aim: To investigate if the current practice regarding the assessment and management of school refusal is compliant with the local CAMHS School refusal protocol.

Method: 20 case notes of clients diagnosed with anxiety based school refusal were reviewed against standards

Results: Majority (80%) of the patients attended their first CAMHS Clinic during which evaluations of Child (100%), family (100%) & school factors (70%) contributing to School refusal was carried out. We found anxiety disorders (83%) & depression (66%) as the main contributing child factors. We also found that nearly half of the children had parental mental illness as a signification contributory factor.

Following the initial assessment, school reports including attendance were requested in 84% of the cases. Unfortunately 33% of the patients who attended the 1st clinic did not attend further appointments. All the patients (67%) were offered gradual return to school, attendance at pupil referral unit and home tuition. 25% were offered family therapy and 16% of the patients have their parents referred to the adult mental health unit. Individual works including behavioural and cognitive approach was undertaken in 42% of the cases.