

VIOLENCE & HARM REDUCTION IN THE ED

Emergency Medicine
at the Deep End

4TH OCTOBER 2024

Report of the third meeting of the Emergency Medicine at the Deep End Group. This hybrid event included Emergency Physicians and interested allied health professionals from across the UK seeking to explore the disproportionate impact that poverty, social deprivation and health inequality has on patients presenting to emergency care.

'walk alongside people'

We were delighted to have Dr Niamh Ni-Longain, an Adult and Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant from Homerton Hospital, North East Thames, come to talk about her experiences working with young people in Hackney, in conjunction with the organisation 'Red Thread', and working alongside groups such as street doctors.

Key Messages

- Know your data, and be able to use it to advocate for your service
- Practice contextual safeguarding
- Stay curious
- Cultural awareness and competence is vital
- Consent-based services - always

We also welcomed Henna Khalique from Red Thread (who have now merged with [Catch 22](#)) who expanded on some of the history of the project as well as her experiences with the organisation, including the scale-up of operations from 3 sites, to 13.

Considerations:

- For those who are digitally excluded, how can we manage connection, with the potential risk (of being connected)?
- How do we support those in transition periods (e.g. 16-18 year olds)?
- Remain curious and engaged - this needs work!
- How to optimise the reachable moment?
- How to promote shared learning and understanding?
- What is your tolerance for poor behaviour?
- How can you deescalate the situation?

After a coffee break, we welcomed Professor Christine Goodall, from Medics against Violence, alongside her colleagues, Geraldine & Ashleigh. Geraldine and Christine gave a great overview of the history of Medics against violence, and the origins of the Navigator programme, which is now embedded in hospitals across Scotland. We talked about the importance of routine enquiry, as well as being the right person, at the right time, for people. Ashleigh shared her insight that change comes from them, not you, and Geraldine highlighted the importance of walking **alongside** people.



NAVIGATOR EVALUATION

Dr Ryan McHenry kindly gave us an update about a piece of work he has been undertaking this year – a review of the Navigator Service (part of Medics against Violence).

The highlights:

- In the year following Navigator intervention, there were:
 - Significant reduction in ED attendances, ambulance journeys & acute admissions.
 - Increases in scheduled outpatient appointments
- Some evidence that healthcare use patterns may be shifted to planned care, with benefits to both patients, and healthcare systems.

OTHER UPDATES

Youth Endowment Fund Project

- The Youth Endowment Fund have requested bids for an evaluation of A&E Navigators (in England and Wales).
- The group will aim to engage with and support any successful applicants.

Useful resources:

- **RCEM Guideline - Information sharing to tackle violence (ISTV)** (note NHS England initiative)
- **Violence Prevention Framework (Scotland)**

Other dates for your diary:

- WoS Inclusion Health Interest Group – 21st November
- Navigators Conference 21–22 January
- Pathways from Homelessness conference – 12–13th March
- Scottish Community Link Worker Network Conference – 07th May

NEXT STEPS

- **Next meeting – 07/02/2025**
- Education group development
- Literature review on ED Interventions
- Mapping of services available in local areas
- Resources to be shared: please share any relevant items
- Call for speakers and topics for future meetings – please contact joanna.quinn2@nhs.scot with any suggestions



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Read our recent publication [here](#)

To get involved or join our mailing list: deependem@gmail.com

X  @EMAtTheDeepEnd