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| Host department:Keele |
| Project Title: |
| Health care practitioners' attitudes and beliefs about musculoskeletal pain and its treatment in children and young people |
| Proposed supervisory team:  |
| Professor Kate Dunn – Keele University – expertise in musculoskeletal pain in children and young people, and studying attitudes and beliefs.Professor Sallie Lamb, University of Exeter – clinical and research expertise in musculoskeletal pain and its treatment.Mid-career primary care clinician (GP / physiotherapist) – To be confirmed |
| Potential for cross consortium networking and educational opportunities: |
| Sharing and developing engagement with different primary healthcare professional groups.Potential to shape future research in paediatric primary care.To underpin future research in the novel area of paediatric musculoskeletal conditions.Sharing knowledge about surveying different types of primary healthcare professionals.Discussions about influences on research implementation and uptake of guideline recommendations.Discuss input and influence of PPIE on research design, analysis and dissemination. |
| Project description: |
| Background: Research on the attitudes and beliefs of healthcare practitioners treating adults with musculoskeletal conditions has had a strong influence on the field. It has led to greater understanding of treatment decisions, content and delivery of new treatments and models of care, improved implementation of research findings, and a greater understanding of guideline adherence. There has been little research on the attitudes and beliefs of healthcare practitioners treating children and young people with musculoskeletal conditions, although they are likely to be different to those found for adults. This limits the understanding of the conditions, the development and delivery of treatments, and the implementation and uptake of new treatments.Aim: to measure the attitudes, beliefs and reported clinical behaviour for musculoskeletal pain of healthcare professionals treating children and young people, and to explore the associations between the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour.Method: * Review of literature on attitudes and beliefs of healthcare professionals about musculoskeletal pain in children and young people.
* Electronic survey of different groups of healthcare professionals. Primary healthcare professionals, and those they refer children and young people with musculoskeletal conditions to, will be included (including GPs, physiotherapists, nurses, paediatricians, paediatric rheumatologists). The survey will include the Pain Attitudes and Beliefs Scale, and vignettes of child/young person patients with musculoskeletal pain, with questions asking about recommendations for activity and management. The survey content will be informed by treatment guidelines, findings from the CAM-Pain Programme Grant, and PPIE input.
* Analysis of survey findings describing:
	+ Attitudes & beliefs
	+ Behaviour
	+ Associations between attitudes/beliefs and behaviour
	+ Differences in attitudes/beliefs and behaviour between different types of musculoskeletal conditions (e.g. pain sites)
	+ Modifiers of the patterns and associations, including healthcare professional background and experience.
* Exploration of the potential uses of the findings, and different ways of sharing results will be explored with PPIE.
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| Training and development provision by host: |
| *Formal training:*Epidemiology and statistics training. Survey design course (including electronic survey design).  |
| *Informal training:* Attendance at seminars and journal clubs.Participation in internal research meetings.Opportunities to supervise undergraduate student research projects.Guidance on working with PPIE.Involvement in literature reviewing sessions. |
| *PPIE:* *PPIE will inform the initial questionnaire content and design, aid in the interpretation of findings, and advise on the dissemination of results (beyond scientific publication). 4 meetings of approx. 10 people will be conducted during the course of the PhD.* |