Avoidable Impairment

Dr Emilia Wawrzkowicz
Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Sarah Hamilton
Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Case Study

- Sylvia is 10 years old, attend local youth group.
- Home Educated since she was 6 years old, described as academically bright.
- Health – multiple attendances for minor injuries or illness at Emergency Department or GP. Some invasive investigations such as endoscopy for stomach pains. Height and weigh normal.
- At youth group she is popular, and often talking about her health issues with friends. She enjoys partaking in the activities with other members of the youth group, which frequently includes eating together.
- You over hear her talking to her friends about going to the hospital to get a feeding tube.
Case Study...

• What could be wrong here?
• What else do you need to know?
• What thoughts might go through your head?
• What could you do next?
• What would you say to the parents?
Avoidable Impairment?

- What is it?
- Why is the impairment avoidable?
- What are the characteristics of the parents?
- What are the characteristics of the children?
- What are key tools in managing cases well?
  - The Pragmatic Reality
  - Professional Curiosity
  - Professional Meetings
The spectrum of health care seeking by parents for their children

1. Classic Neglect
   - Late presentation
   - Sporadic attention to treatment or attendance
   - Even for serious illness
   - Jeopardising health of child

2. Classic FII
   - Frequent presentation to medical attention
   - With invented symptoms
   - Giving medicines with no disease and asking for investigations

3. Marked Non-compliance
   - With treatment

4. Children Have to be Ill to be Noticed.
   - Lackadaisical with treatment
   - Serious compromise between child & parent need

5. Appropriate Concern & response
   - No distinction between child & parent need

6. Frequent attender with mild or trivial symptoms, uses medicine often

7. Exaggerate Symptoms
   - Insist on referral
   - Over-zealous attention to treatment regime

8. Frequent presenter to medical attention
   - With invented symptoms
   - Giving medicines with no disease and asking for investigations

9. No distinction between child & parent need
   - Serious compromise between child & parent need
   - Normal range parents can & do distinguish child’s needs from theirs

Parents can & do distinguish child’s needs from theirs
Being Professionally Curious

- What enables us to be Professionally Curious?

- What hinders us?

- Why is it important to be Professionally Curious and say the challenging things?
Professionals Meetings

• Why are they important
• Who would you seek to include
• What obstacles do you need to overcome
• How would you want to include the parents?
Questions?