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Press Release

MASTERCLASS ON BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AFTER BRAIN INJURY TO HEAR FROM 'MIN' PSYCHOLOGIST

A leading psychologist from Bath's Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) Foundation Trust, known locally as 'the Min', has addressed a national Master Class organised by the Child Brain Injury Trust on managing challenging behaviour in children and young people following an acquired brain injury (ABI).

Dr Peter Tucker, from 'the Min', is a clinical psychologist working with cognitive, emotional and behavioural issues in children and young people with acquired brain injury. The hospital has one of the few dedicated units in the country for the intensive neuro rehabilitation of young people aged 16 to 25. Its rehabilitation programme is designed to address the needs of young people as they make the transition to adult life.

Every 30 minutes, a child or young person will acquire a brain injury. This could be the result of an accident, an illness such as meningitis or encephalitis, a poisoning, a stroke or a brain tumour. Brain injury is a common factor involved in the development of behaviour problems as almost every case involves damage to the brain's frontal and temporal lobes which are very important for regulation of behaviour.

In the Master Class, Dr Tucker talked about the underlying causes of behaviour that are difficult to manage in children and young people following an ABI and the strategies that can be used to support them.

Behavioural problems after a brain injury can include verbal and physical aggression, over-activity, impulsivity, irritability, insensitivity, reduced anger control, eating and sleep problems, depression and anxiety.

Dr Tucker commented: "A brain injury can have a devastating and life-long impact on the child and their family. Bones can mend and scars can heal but a brain injury can have effects that stay with you for life and impacts on what you think, feel and do. It is important to share knowledge and skills in understanding and managing difficult behaviour after brain injury."

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Notes for Editors:

- The Master Class, on Friday 25 November in London, enabled health practitioners and parents of affected children to hear leading UK experts address the complex issues that arise following brain injury.
- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people the Trust has expertise in general and complex:
 - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
 - Neurological rehabilitation
 - Chronic pain management
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk
- The interdisciplinary team of specialist clinicians at the Min's neuro rehabilitation service have extensive experience in dealing with these types of complex difficulties. The hospital offers specialist assessment and intensive rehabilitation services at a national level to reduce impairment and manage the long-term effects of physical, cognitive or emotional problems caused by brain injuries or other neurological conditions.
- The adolescent rehabilitation programme recognises that the needs of young people with brain injury or other neurological conditions are particularly complicated as they make the transition to adult life. We provide an age-appropriate environment and activities to facilitate effective rehabilitation. Our aim is to respond flexibly to the individual needs of our patients and their families.