

Professor Steve Turner President
Robert Okunnu Chief Executive Officer
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
5-11 Theobald's Road
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16 July 2024

Dear Professor Steve Turner President and Robert Okunnu

Perplexing Presentations (PP) / Fabricated or induced illness by carers: A practical guide for paediatricians

We, the undersigned, call upon the Royal College to withdraw with immediate effect, the above publicly available guidance issued in 2021.

The professional view of the undersigned is that this action is urgently necessary to review and address the evidence of its discriminatory impact on disabled parents and the traumatic adverse experiences of disabled children and their families when unwarranted and inappropriate allegations of FII are made.

The weight of independent research and evidence from practice concerning the discriminatory impact of the guidance and the harm it is causing to disabled children and their families, is such that no reasonable Royal College could fail to take such urgent action. The research and practice evidence includes:

- C Long, J Eaton, S Russell, F Gullon-Scott and A Bilson, Fabricated or Induced Illness and Perplexing Presentations. Abbreviated Practice Guide for Social Work Practitioners, BASW (The professional association for social work and social workers) (2022);
- F Gullon-Scott and C Long 'FII and Perplexing Presentations' British Journal of Social Work (2022) 52, 4040 – 4056;
- L Clements and A L Aiello 'The prevalence and impact of allegations of Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)' (Cerebra 2023);
- A Bilson 'Comments on Perplexing Presentations (PP) / Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) by carers: RCPCH guidance' (2020) produced at the request of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) following a meeting between representatives of the RCPCH and the Department for Education accessible at <https://bilson.org.uk/home/response-on-fii/>.

In particular, the BASW guidance which is clear and evidence-based, identifies issues arising from the Royal College's guide which place professionals in an invidious position as to best practice. The Royal College has been made aware of these concerns and we ask therefore that you respond to this request within 10

working days of this letter. We further advise that the Equality and Human Rights Commission is aware of these concerns, is watching with interest, and has asked to be kept informed of any response.

Yours sincerely



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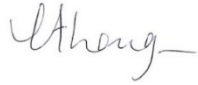
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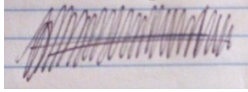


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