



SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Neurorehabilitation

- Rehabilitation Prescriptions should be available to all individuals with an Acquired Brain Injury on discharge from acute care, held by the individual with copies made available to the general practitioner
- A national review of neurorehabilitation is required to ensure service provision is adequate and consistent throughout the UK
- The government should collate reliable statistics for the number of individuals presenting at Accident and Emergency Departments with Acquired Brain Injury, and record the numbers that require and receive neurorehabilitation
- There should be a significant increase in neurorehabilitation beds and neurorehabilitation professionals so that every trauma centre has a consultant in rehabilitation medicine, and individuals with an Acquired Brain Injury have access to neurorehabilitation
- Cooperation between key government departments (i.e. the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Work and Pensions) is required to review funding for in-patient and community neurorehabilitation services

Education

- Acquired Brain Injury should be included in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice
- All education professionals should have a minimum level of awareness and understanding about Acquired Brain Injury and the educational requirements of children and young people with this condition (i.e. completion of a short online course for all school-based staff), with additional training for the named lead professional supporting the individual with an ABI and Special Educational Needs Coordinators). Additional training should be provided for the named lead professional who supports the individual with Acquired Brain Injury, and for Special Educational Needs Coordinators
- The Acquired Brain Injury Card for the under 18s should be promoted in all schools, hospitals and Local Education Authorities
- Many children and young people with Acquired Brain Injury require individually-tailored, collaborative and integrated support for the return to school, and throughout their education. An agreed 'return-to-school' pathway plan is required, led and monitored by a named lead professional, to provide a consistent approach and support for the individual, their family and teachers

Criminal justice

- Criminal justice procedures, practices and processes need to be reformed to take into account the needs of individuals with Acquired Brain Injury
- Training and information about Acquired Brain Injury is required across all services including the police, court, probation and prison services
- Brain injury screening for children, young people and adults is required on entry to the secure estate, and if identified, an assessment of the effects, deficits, severity and impact is required with the appropriate interventions planned and implemented by a trained team
- All agencies working with young people in the Criminal Justice System, schools, psychologists, psychiatrists, general practitioners and youth offending teams should work together to ensure that all the needs of the individual are addressed

Sport-related concussion

- The government should ensure that there is collaborative research to evaluate and improve practical assessment tools, develop objective diagnostic markers and gain deeper understanding of the recovery process and long term risks of sport-related concussion
- An enhanced education campaign should be implemented in schools to improve awareness and understanding of sport-related concussion with the support of government departments (i.e Department for Education and the Department of Health and Social Care)
- Sport, government, and professional clinical bodies must work collaboratively to improve health professionals' knowledge of concussion management
- The National Health Service should develop better pipelines for the diagnosis and care of sport-related concussion

Welfare benefits system

- All benefits assessors should be trained to understand the problems that affect individuals with an Acquired Brain Injury
- Re-assessment for welfare benefits for people with Acquired Brain Injury should only take place every five years
- A brain injury expert should be on the consultation panel when changes in the welfare system are proposed