

Social work educator views of the training and educational needs of student social workers in preparation for working with individuals and families affected by ABI

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Aim

- Social work education is governed by four regulatory bodies
- In England alone, there are 82 social work education providers of multiple pre-qualifying routes
- Little is known about brain injury social work education content
- **Repeated statutory reviews have shown social work knowledge and skills**
- *Heads Together* is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) under its Research for Social Care (RfSc) Programme (Grant Reference Number NIHR202980) to measure, collate and develop social work education resources to be used pre and post qualifying across social work in the UK.
- The aim of this survey, as work package 2 of 5, is to better understand brain injury social work curricula inclusion.

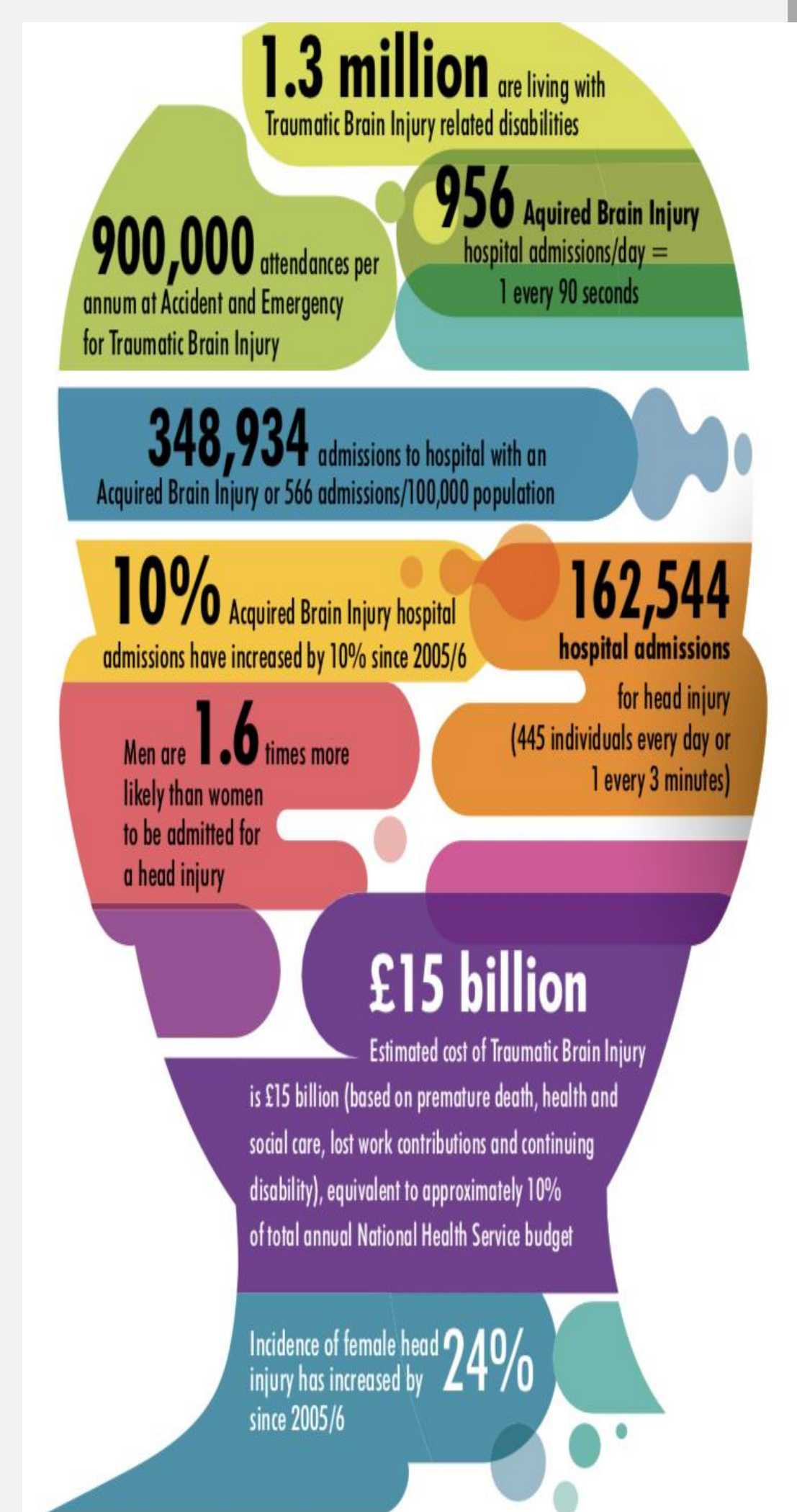
People

- 1) Current social work educator (incl. ordinarily teach across a social work course, lecturer based in a social work school/team, placement learning co-ordinator)(for this part of the project, we are not including practice educator or on-site supervisor but if you would like to be involved later on then please do add your name and email details to the last question).
- 2) Working in a UK-based social work education provider?

Activity

Surveying social work educators was the second of five work packages to launch. The survey was collated in the first quarter of the NIHR project launching in June 2022 running across the summer into October 2022 to account for academic year.

- 1) 12-point survey developed to capture knowledge and curricula inclusion
- 2) Survey deployed using a social media strategy with support from British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and the Joint Universities Social Work Education Committee (JUSWEC), agreeing to share survey through member mailing lists.
- 3) Direct email strategy was deployed following the Social Work England provider directory (this step was limited to England).
- 4) Reminder emails and social media posts were shared
- 5) Survey closed and results analysed thematically.



Outcomes

Survey thematic review found four themes (R=66):

- 1) Acknowledged gap in ABI curricula inclusion in initial social work education – including that of the educators themselves
- 2) Significant number of respondents had personal experience of brain injury (either self, family member or close friend)
- 3) Majority viewed ABI should be mandatory for all pre-qualifying social work education courses
- 4) There are pockets of good practices often prompted by personal or local interest
- 5) No mention made of interprofessional learning

Reflections

Brain injury social work is social work.

Confirmed curriculum gap

Challenge of pressured if flexible curricula design and content

Significance of personal knowledge

Need to accessible range of content and knowledge including interprofessional learning