

Children's Headache Training (CHaT) course in the United Kingdom: the first 6 years

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Objective

The British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA) recognised a need and desire for post-graduate training in the diagnosis and management of headache in children and young people.

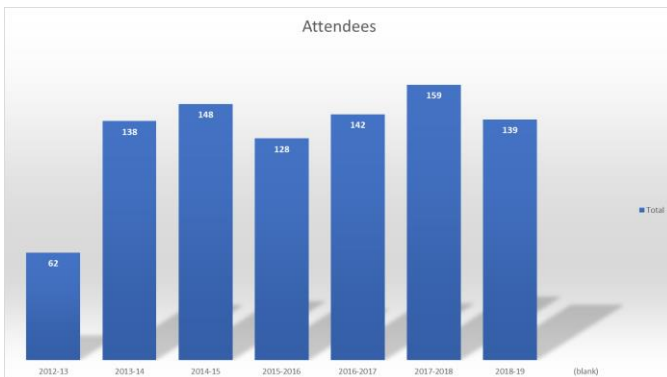
A one-day interactive CHaT course for paediatric neurologists, paediatricians, and others working with children and young people with headaches was therefore designed.

Methods

A faculty of paediatric neurologists and paediatricians with clinical interest and expertise in paediatric headache and medical education was established by the BPNA. The scope and content of the one-day course was established by the faculty.

We included pre-course study materials, didactic lectures, small group facilitated workshops, quizzes, and anonymised participant feed-back.

The first course was launched in November 2012. The 2018 revision was based on participant and independent observer feedback.



Cost and Quality

The BPNA has a thriving Short Courses team providing courses in the UK and abroad on paediatric epilepsies, movement disorders, neonatal neurology, and headache: <https://www.bpna.org.uk/bpna-courses/>.

A typical 1-day course costs £205 (€226).

Quality control comprises faculty teacher training, regular faculty peer-review and feedback, and regular review of participant feedback, suggestions, and demand.

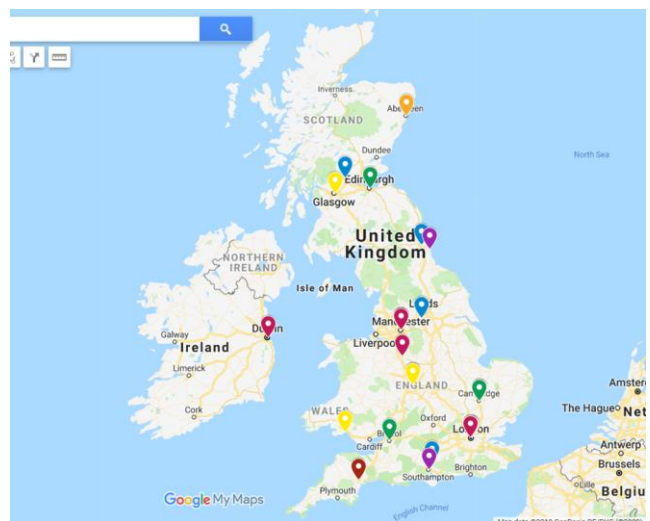
Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to all our faculty teachers for their continuing enthusiasm and hard work; to the secretariat and staff at the BPNA; and, most of all, to almost 1000 participants, whose experience and contribution have made CHaT so successful.

Results

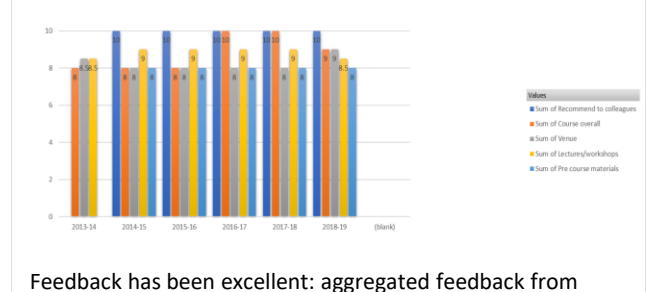
Over 6 years 26 CHaT courses have been hosted in 13 different UK and Republic of Ireland cities, reaching 916 participants so far.

CHaT teaching sites



Most participants were paediatricians, but there were also paediatric neurologists, trainee paediatric neurologists, specialist nurses, and ophthalmologists.

Feedback



Feedback has been excellent: aggregated feedback from 2013-2019 on pre-course materials was good (score 8/10); on lectures and workshops was excellent (8-9/10); on the course overall was excellent (score 10/10); and on "would recommend to colleagues" was "definitely" (score 10/10).

Conclusion

The CHaT courses have proved popular with participants and faculty alike.

Future developments will include formative before-and-after assessments to evaluate knowledge transfer.