

## Who are we?

The Children's Acquired Brain Injury Consultation Service (Children's ABCS) is a regional service that was established in 2012, as a multi-professional team designed to support existing services, to recognise and respond to the needs of children and young people after an acquired brain injury. The team consists of sessions from a clinical psychologist, speech and language therapist and an occupational therapist.

## What is an acquired brain injury?

An acquired brain injury (ABI) is brain damage caused after a period of normal development. Such damage can arise from a number of sources which can include: traumatic brain injury (TBI), circulatory disorders, interruptions of oxygen supply to the brain (eg. near drowning), central nervous system (CNS) infection (eg. meningitis) or tumour and associated treatments (eg. radiation).

## What do we do?

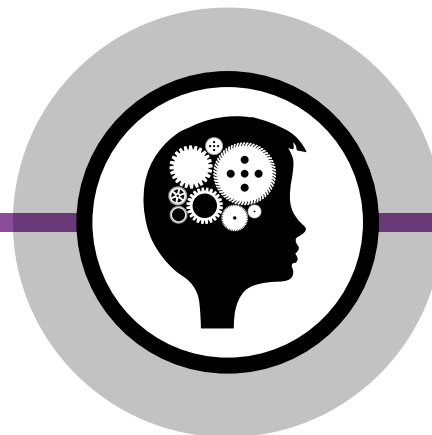
Children's ABCS is a service-facing service, which means we provide an advisory and consultative focus for professionals and services that are supporting children and young people (and their families) after an ABI. Children's ABCS provides support via:

- Information development and provision
- Delivery of training regarding ABI
- Consultations regarding children presenting with ABI-related difficulties (eg. poor attention, difficulties with organisation, mental health difficulties) which may involve:
  - Making recommendations on evidence based treatment approaches
  - Advising on educational planning
  - Signposting on to other relevant services (eg. in the voluntary sector).

Children's ABCS does not currently provide direct child assessments or carer support and can only offer support to services working with the child and their carers.

Children's ABCS works in partnership to provide support, advice or consultation to any service supporting a child with an ABI in Northern Ireland. This includes support to universal and specialist services within the health and social care, education and voluntary sectors, including all children up to age 19 who are in receipt of children's services.

We are also engaged in evaluating improvements in the provision of services to children and families post-ABI and have contributed to national elearning resources see: <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/home/>



## What can you expect after you have contacted Children's ABCS?

A member of the multidisciplinary team will contact you after your initial contact and will clarify what support would be most effective, and how this could be arranged.

We provide a rolling calendar of training events across the region. Speak to us about upcoming events in your area or about the possibility of arranging bespoke training for your service's needs.

## How can you contact Children's ABCS?

The team can be contacted by:

**Email:**

[Childrens.abcssm@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:Childrens.abcssm@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

**Post:** Children's ABCS

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RBHSC, 180 Falls Road

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## Children's Acquired Brain Injury Consultation Service (Children's ABCS)



A regional information, training and consultation service regarding childhood acquired brain injury

Guidelines & Audit Implementation Network (GAIN)  
Service Improvement Award Winner 2014