

Consultation response

Question 1: We would like to know in what context you are responding. Please choose one of the following:

I am responding as:

- a) an individual who experiences chronic pain
- b) a family member or carer of someone who experiences chronic pain
- c) a health professional
- d) an organisation representing people who experience chronic pain
- e) other stakeholder (please tell us in the comments box below)

Question 2: Please choose your preferred option (Chapter 2 provides details).

- Option 1 – a centre of excellence in a single location
- Option 2 – a service delivered by local chronic pain clinicians
(supported by other clinical advisors in another part of the country)
- Option 3 – a service delivered in different locations
(by a team of chronic pain specialists – an outreach or roving service)

Please tell us why this is your preferred option in the comments box below. The factors listed in Chapter 2 of the consultation paper may help you.

There was no consensus of opinion on the preferred option from SMASAC. Some respondents welcomed option 1 (a centre of excellence in single location), but pointed out that this would address problems only in a very small percentage of patients with chronic pain. In addition reservations were expressed about going ahead with this whilst level 2 pain services are not adequately developed/funded in most areas of Scotland. The disadvantages of option 1 lie in some patients having to travel further afield. There is also the issue of how any benefits obtained with going through inpatient pain management programmes would be maintained when the patient returns to the community. Patients going back to their home situations may not have the support that they achieved in their short residential stay. SMASAC therefore wondered whether the resource might be better targeted at improving the inconsistent funding of pain services across the country.

Question 3: Are there any of the options you disagree with? (If No, move straight to Question 4.)

If yes, please tell us which one(s) in the comments box, and why?

No respondent absolutely disagreed with any of the options. However, the opinion was expressed that developing skills of people locally to deal with a small group of patients is neither sensible nor cost effective.

Question 4: If you have other ideas that have not been covered, please tell us about these in the comments box below. You may want to include the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Telehealth services should be considered in this context. It would be useful in screening patients prior to referral to a centre of excellence, and potentially helpful in maintaining progress when discharged. Links with employment services, adult education and voluntary services to try and bridge the gap between the medical environment involved in a programme at a centre of excellence and the environment to which the patient will return, are all important, and need to be put in place.

Question 5: What do you think the barriers are to accessing a residential pain management service? (For example, distance away from family, work or family commitments, upfront travel costs.)

Please list as many as you wish in the comments box below and include any others that are important to you.

All of the factors mentioned in the question are relevant and need to be considered. It seems unlikely that any centre of excellence will be able to manage large numbers of patients, so waiting times are likely to be long. This was thought not to be unreasonable due the chronicity of the condition.

Question 6: Please choose from the list below which aspects of residential pain management services should be included in a Scottish service.

(choose as many as apply)

- A chronic pain assessment
- Supported one to one sessions to teach coping skills
- Group sessions
- Residential accommodation
- Opportunity for immediate carer/support provider to accompany patient

- Peer support
- Tailored exercise programme
- Medication assessment
- Other (please tell us in the comments box below)

See response to question 1.

Question 7: Irrespective of the final service model selected, should access to the current service provided in Bath (or elsewhere in the UK) be retained for occasional use?

Yes No Don't Know

Question 8: Have you previously attended, or supported someone attending a residential service outside Scotland?

Yes (please answer Question 9)

No (please move straight to Question 10)

Question 9: If you have attended, or supported someone attending a residential service outside Scotland, please tell us about any advantages and disadvantages of the experience.

No.

Question 10: If you, or someone close to you, has been offered but declined a residential service outside Scotland what were the reasons for this?

No.

Question 11: If you wish to add any further comments on issues raised in the consultation paper or current chronic pain services in Scotland, please use the comments box below.

No.