Consultation response: the provision of specialist residential chronic pain services in Scotland

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.

If there is a specialist team to help patients when they are in a specific area they can also educate the local staff so they can continue on-going support. If there is a specialist team, the patient/service user will always have a specialist to contact (specific team). It will avoid any financial and emotional cost. It will save people refusing a service because the travel is too traumatic.
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?

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.
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.

- The upfront travel cost.
- Leaving other siblings at home.
- If there is children/adolescents missing school, I missed my higher exams as I got a place at Bath in May.
- My Mum had to take three weeks sick off work to attend.
- The cost of providing lunch and dinner whilst attending the programme (not everyone can afford this).
- Pay back the financial cost of follow-up treatments and initial assessment costs. (Accommodation, travel)
- Being isolated for the duration of the treatment.
- Not being able to attend due to weather.
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)

Good follow up treatment and support the patient and family.
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.

I attended Bath.

Advantages:
There were group work sessions and all able to support each other.
People the same age as me having similar issues.
They were honest and realistic about the future about my condition.
The lessons I learnt from Bath will stay with me.
My Mum was included and given great support.

Disadvantages:
Being away from home.
The financial cost.
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?

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.

(End of questions. If you require more space to write answers, you may submit as many additional pages as you wish. If doing so, please clearly state the question numbers that your answers relate to.)