

**Title:**  
**Developing a Paediatric Service**

**Abstract:**

An increase in the number of young people presenting with primary lymphoedema in our service over recent years has led to a need for better understanding of the range of issues faced by the young child and their family. A commitment to provide more responsive treatment and management options for this group is shared by the many clinicians involved in their care. This paediatric group may be at risk of significant disability and have many hurdles to face as they move through childhood and adolescence. Additionally they will face the issues of managing a chronic condition and will benefit from learning effective strategies for coping.

This paper will present the evolving paediatric service and reflect on the knowledge and skills that have been learnt. Understanding of the shortfalls of traditional models of care and the need to embrace a biopsychosocial model of care will be outlined. The need to engage with the young child and their family in their early years is essential in developing a trusting relationship for the adolescent years when they may be most at risk of abandoning the management of their condition. The future provides an opportunity to work collaboratively with other paediatric clinicians and to draw on the wealth of knowledge and experience now presented locally and internationally. The challenge to develop a paediatric lymphoedema service which is innovative and responsive to the physical and psychological needs of young people is exciting, and would aim to enhance the wellbeing of the whole family.