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**Manuscript title**: Supporting young people with self-harm behaviour in primary care

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McManus et al identify that one in five young women in 2014 self-harmed, the highest reported prevalence of self-harm in young people to date.(1) Self-harm in young people (16-25 years of age) presenting to primary care is increasing, and McManus et al argue that young people who self-harm should be offered help and support in primary care.(1)

At present there are no effective primary care targeted self-harm interventions in young people.(2) The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence self-harm clinical guidelines have limited guidance for primary care practitioners on how to manage self-harm, yet there is a nationwide and worldwide move towards integrated primary mental health care services in an attempt to manage mental illness and self-harm.(3-5)

The role of primary care needs to be optimised. This includes the development and testing of primary care interventions to build the evidence-base and to commission services in the United Kingdom, with opportunity for adaptation and translation in global primary care settings.

Early detection and intervention may help prevent self-harm behaviour becoming persistent in young people. Inclusion of young people with lived experience in the design of future self-harm interventions and service models is essential to ensure acceptability of these. Primary care is a healthcare setting that urgently needs further research and evaluation in this critical area of self-harm in young people.

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