WRITE TO LETTERS@THETIMES.CO.UK

Wednesday January 05 2022, 5.00pm, The Times

**RISE IN CHILDREN WITH EATING DISORDERS**  
Sir, As a frontline paediatrician I have witnessed the massive increase in children with eating disorders that has been triggered by our response to the pandemic (“More children admitted to hospital for eating disorders”, Jan 4). Many of these young people are managed in general paediatric wards owing to a shortage of specialist beds. It is often overlooked that the mortality associated with anorexia nervosa is similar to that associated with a number of cancers such as Hodgkin’s lymphoma. It is unimaginable that as a society we would have accepted a doubling of these diagnoses as a reasonable consequence of our decisions nor would we tolerate a persisting lack of specialist treatment. Politicians, and society as a whole, need to realise that mental health and physical health are inexorably intertwined. **Anthony Cohn**  
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