

South Wales and South West CHD Network Quarterly Report

Network	South Wales and the South West Congenital Heart Disease Network		
Services covered	All CHD services in South Wales and South West England		
Network Core Team	John Mills (Manager), Andy Tometzki (Clinical Director), Jess Hughes / Sheena Vernon (Lead Nurse), Rachel Burrows (Support Manager)		
Reporting period:	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2021)	Overall Status:	AMBER

Key Objective of the Network

The Network brings together clinicians, managers, patient/family representatives and commissioners from across South Wales and the South West, to work together to support patients of all ages with a congenital heart condition, and their families/carers.

Main achievements in this reporting period (Q3: Oct-Dec 2021):

Clinical

- Network Clinical Governance Group held in December 2021 including quality improvement project presentations.
- Continued to support national ACHD workforce meetings

Business

- Self-assessment process Wales – process review meetings underway (5/8 completed during quarter) in collaboration with North West, North Wales & Isle of Man CHD Network.
- Continued to set up and lead National network of CHD networks conference calls to allow rapid dissemination of information, discussion of clinical cases and shared learning during COVID period (increased to weekly during Level 4 incident).
- Monthly reporting of CHD surgical and interventional waiting list information, % CHD activity restoration and escalated issues or risks to NHS England.
- Network Board held in December 2021 – with the theme of research including a presentation on personalised physiotherapy-led remote ACHD cardiac rehab programme research project.
- Increased provision of lead nurse time commenced, as agreed by NHSE.

Education and research

- WPCN Paediatric with Expertise in Cardiology education event (held in October)
- Annual ACHD study day (held October) with recorded presentations published on the network future platform.
- Presented at a national CHD networks paediatric nurses education event for nurses across the UK (November)
- L1 & L2 Cardiac Nurse study and networking day (held November)
- Paediatric cardiac nurses 2021 webinar series – recording published on the network future platform.
- Held monthly network link nurse (level 3) virtual drop-in sessions.
- Held BRHC link nurse meetings.
- Network Cardiac Physiologist fourth regional network virtual event held.
- Continued with monthly bitesize education initiative “Lesion of the month” for all clinical nurse specialists and link nurses across the network.
- CHD nurse competencies launched across South Wales and the South West.
- Led rapid development of national e-learning for health module – now drafted.

Communications and Engagement

- Continually developing the network website – latest updates include honing accessibility functions and arranging a free external audit from website supplier.
- Published Autumn network newsletter and distributed across the network and further afield (October)
- Patient rep meetings held in advance of the network board, as well as debrief meetings afterwards –

- positively received by patient reps and has led to more active engagement in board meetings
- Patient story – piloted new format of presentation with voiceover: well-received by Network Board.
 - Charity events attended by lead nurse to enhance engagement
 - Paediatric psychology live webinar series for families, including a new episode on mindfulness (November)

Planned Progress for next quarter (Q4: Jan-Mar 2022)

- Network regional cardiac physiologist website project group to be launched.
- National Fetal event (January)
- Progress plans for Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology study forums (January 2022 and April 2022)
- Network annual psychology day (Feb 2022)
- Draft Spring 2022 network newsletter
- Develop and sign off the 2022/23 work plan
- Complete South Wales self-assessment review meetings and an overall review report for WHSSC

Top Risks / Issues *

Title	Mitigating Actions
1. Clinical risks due to delayed appointments and procedures for CHD patients across the network due to COVID-19. Productivity in Outpatients diminished due to COVID-19	All network members have been asked to escalate any significant clinical risks to the network and within their organisations. All centres have been requested to regularly review and triage their waiting lists Development of restoration plans for CHD activity – linking in with PIC restoration plans
2. Risk that CHD patients in South Wales are not having same standards of care due to CHD standards not currently adopted by Wales	Implementation of phase 2 business case underway to enhance ACHD service in South Wales. Approval in principles by WHSSC to adopt the CHD standards. Self-assessment visits being planned with level 3 centres.
3. Risk that adult CHD service provision will be reduced across the region because of difficulty recruiting and retaining specialist ACHD medical workforce	Concern escalated to Clinical Reference Group for CHD, to be considered and addressed nationally. Meeting set up in September 2021 with key stakeholders to explore issues and mitigation strategies, such as use of different staff groups.

*please note that the CHD network holds a comprehensive risk register on the UHBW Datix system which is reviewed by network board quarterly and is available on request