

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	Louise Hudson (Manager), Andy Tometzki (Clinical Director), Jess Hughes / Sheena Vernon (Lead Nurse), Rachel Burrows (Support Manager)		
Reporting period:	Quarter 2 (July - Sept 2022)	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 (Q2: July-Sept 2022):

Clinical

- Designed four QR code posters to signpost to psychology well-being resources for parents/carers and for children and young people, when in outpatients or pre-admission, and during admission on the ward. These also link to psychology webinars.
- Published and launched the psychology recorded webinars for parents/carers on the UHBW YouTube and the Network website.
- Continued support with recruitment to psychologist posts for ACHD and paediatric service in Bristol.
- Next stage of engagement exercise with peripheral centres to recruit into pilot project for improving transition across the Network.
- Reviewed network pregnancy guidelines and updated the Network website.
- Launched a new patient information booklet on planning pregnancy with aortic disease, in collaboration with charity Aortic Dissection Awareness UK – drafted by BHI consultant cardiologist and a patient.
- Refreshed and held Fetal Cardiology meet between Bristol and Cardiff teams (September) – to continue on a quarterly basis.

Business

- Appointed a new Network Manager and developed a thorough induction schedule – started in post in September
- Recruited and appointed a new Network clinical director – due to start in October.
- Piloted first network board as a hybrid meeting with members attending both in-person and online (July) – including a spotlight on nursing presentation.
- Filmed the patient story for Network Board.
- Held Network-wide quality improvement/audit session as part of the Clinical Governance Group – hybrid event (July) – including a spotlight on research across the Network.
- Submitted draft report summarising findings from Welsh self-assessment visits to WHSSC in collaboration with North West, North Wales & Isle of Man CHD Network
- Continue to set up and lead National network of CHD networks now monthly conference calls to allow rapid dissemination of information, discussion of clinical cases and shared learning during COVID and restoration period.
- Monthly reporting of CHD surgical and interventional waiting list information, % CHD activity restoration and escalated issues or risks to NHS England.
- Continued association with other ODN Networks in South West and other developing CHD networks.
- Planning underway to run our next Network board and annual M&M forum in October.
- Collected data from CHD services (both adults and paediatrics) across the Network and populated the 2022/23 performance dashboard ready for review at the Network Board.

Education and research

- Held South West Cardiology Education Forum (July) with positive feedback.
- Continued to promote national e-Learning for Health introductory CHD modules – SWSW key authors in this.
- Network link nurse (level 3) virtual sessions held bi-monthly to enable shared learning and best practice.
- Held BRHC link nurse meeting.
- Seventh virtual Network event held for Cardiac Physiologists across the Network to discuss current service provision, share learning and highlight training and education needs (Sept).
- Continue to run a Network regional physiologist project sub-group to develop the 'cardiac physiology' education and training virtual platform
- Continued with monthly bitesize education initiative "Lesion of the month" for all clinical nurse specialists and link nurses across the network.

Communications and Engagement

- Network 2021/22 annual report published and distributed across the Network and further afield (July/August).
- Launched second staff photography competition as wellbeing initiative (Sept)
- Progressed plans and drafted the Autumn 2022 Network newsletter
- Refreshed, redesigned and launched a new 'Charities and Support Groups' page
- Refreshed and redesigned 'Information for Adults' patient support page on the Network website, with support from the ACHD clinical nurse specialists.
- Met with patient representative (comms expert) to review the Network website.
- Patient rep meetings held in advance of the Network Board, as well as debrief meetings afterwards.
- Published a new patient information leaflet 'tips and tricks for managing on the ward for Adult CHD patients' – developed by ACHD psychologist with support from network patient representatives.

Planned Progress for next quarter (Q3: Oct-Dec 2022)

- Hold Network Board and annual M&M forum (October)
- Progress plans for transition study day part two (October)
- Progress plans for WPCN Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology education event (Autumn)
- Progress plans for 20th ACHD study day (October)
- Progress plans for fetal cardiology for sonographers study day (October)
- Progress plans for local charities and support group update event (October)
- Progress plans for Adult and Paediatric CHD Clinical Nurse Specialist Away Day (November)
- Prepare and present at National CHD Networks conference (November)
- Hold Network young person's evening, BRHC/BHI (November)
- Finalise paediatric guidelines and gain approval via Network and governance arrangements in relevant centres
- Cardiac nurses level 3 education feedback questionnaire to be developed and disseminated.
- Support new Clinical Director as starts in role (October)
- Publish the 2022 Autumn newsletter and distribute across the Network.
- Design a new psychology professionals support page on the Network website
- Publish and promote psychology wellbeing QR code posters
- Hold workplan priorities session for 2023/24.

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 review and triage their waiting lists regularly. 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 principle by health boards to adopt the English CHD standards. Self-assessment visits now conducted with level 3 centres and summary report is being completed to inform this decision.
3. Risk that network centres will be unable to identify or fund link nurses, reducing quality of service to patients (Note: link nurses may be named but without funded time to deliver the role)	The network team has met with managers, clinicians and/or senior nurses in each hospital to explore the local options. A link nurse development programme has been put in place. Plans are under way to increase access to level 1 and 2 Clinical Nurse Specialist for those patients in greatest need of support.
4. 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. This continues to be considered and addressed nationally. SWSW CHD Network is supporting these efforts as required.
5. Risk that adult CHD service provision will be compromised across the network due to recruitment and retention of specialist ACHD medical workforce	National drive to increase ACHD staffing across CHD Networks

**Please note that from April 2022 the CHD network will no longer hold a risk register on the UHBW Datix system, following a change in approach from NHSE. Instead, it will hold a local issues log, which will be reviewed by network board quarterly and be available on request. Risks will be held on provider or commissioner risk registers as appropriate.*