

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 2 (Jul – Sep 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 (Q1: Apr-Jun 2021):

Clinical

- New paediatric CHD consultant started in post in Level 2 Centre (Cardiff)
- Network M&M held in September 2021 with speakers from across the network – over 45 attendees and positively evaluated
- ACHD workforce meeting (held July and second meeting in Sept)
- Paediatric cardiac nurse post successfully appointed in Taunton

Business

- Published annual report 2020/21
- Continued to set up and lead National network of CHD networks monthly conference calls to allow rapid dissemination of information, discussion of clinical cases and shared learning during COVID period.
- 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 September 2021 – included presentation on respiratory virus update.
- Self-assessment process Wales – streamlining of self-assessment process underway in collaboration with North West, North Wales & Isle of Man CHD Network.

Education and research

- Paediatric cardiac nurses 2021 monthly webinar series completed with six webinars – very well received and evaluated.
- Held monthly network link nurse (level 3) virtual drop-in sessions.
- Held BRHC link nurse meetings.
- Network Cardiac Physiologist third regional network virtual event held.
- Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology study day (July).
- Continued with monthly bitesize education initiative “Lesion of the month” for all clinical nurse specialists and link nurses across the network.
- Psychology bite-size event ‘providing cardiac psychology in all of our pathways’ (September)
- Nurse competencies launched across South Wales and the South West
- Teaching session held at Paediatric hospice with links across South West

Communications and Engagement

- Continually developing the network website – latest updates include refreshed professional photo shoot images, COVID information frequently updated
- 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

- Charity events attended by lead nurse to enhance engagement
- Drafted network Autumn newsletter

Planned Progress for next quarter (Q2: Jul-Sep 2021)

- Network Autumn newsletter to be published and distributed across network and further afield (October)
- WPCN Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology education event (due October)
- Progress plans for ACHD study day (due October)
- Present at a national CHD networks paediatric nurses education event for nurses across the UK (November).
- L1 and L2 cardiac nurse study day and networking event (November)

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 reduction in nurse lead capacity will delay progress with areas of work they lead on	Specific projects or pieces of work have been paused until network lead nurse's return (including transition clinic pathway and nursing engagement). Proposal for temporary uplift in nursing hours to facilitate catch-up escalated to NHSE.
3. 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.
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, 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