



Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

Using Data in Decision Making & Quality Improvement

A message from Simon...

A key part of our programme of work over the past 12 months has been undertaking regional service reviews. As a core team, we have had the pleasure of travelling to all organisations across our region to see and hear how services are being delivered. Throughout the region we were met with dedicated, hard-working, and inspiring colleagues, and it has been a real privilege to lead this work.

The review process was very much led and driven by data; from the self-assessments provided by local teams, through to the national datasets available on Model Health System, and national waiting list datasets. The depth and breadth of data allowed us to have informed and targeted discussions with colleagues and drive our recommendations.

The core team completed a report of findings and recommendations at a regional level in September 2022 - this report has now received approval from colleagues in NHS England SW, and we are incorporating this into our programmes of work. A copy of the report can be accessed on our NHS Futures page (see below) - we welcome feedback from colleagues and look forward to driving forward the recommendations.



Simon Courtman
Clinical Director, SW SIC ODN

NHS Futures - ODN Platform Launch

To facilitate collaboration between our regional providers, the SW SIC ODN have developed a workspace on NHS Futures:

<https://future.nhs.uk/SWChildrenSurgeryODN>

Launched January 2023, the platform provides space for sharing information and resources which is accessible only to NHS colleagues. Members of all our Clinical Working Groups will be given access to this platform over the coming weeks, and anyone else who is interested can **request to join** the workspace.



Model Health & GIRFT Metrics: Using Data for Improvement

Over the last few years we have seen an expansion in the data available to us as healthcare practitioners that can help inform our practice. This presents opportunities for networks to further explore variation in practice and share and learn from each other in measured and targeted ways.

Some backlogs and delays in healthcare services are due to limited resources (e.g. theatre availability) or increased demand (post-covid19). To make a process improvement, a detailed understanding of the variation and relationship between demand, capacity and flow is needed.

Understanding our waiting lists and our capacity allows some knowledge of planning services to best meet patients' needs. When looking at any metrics it is important to understand the variation we are observing in our performance. It may be warranted and we are responsive in delivering person centred care for our population in a particular area, or it may be unwarranted which might show that we are not achieving best evidence in practice and this is causing adverse outcomes for patients.

We can also potentially explore data quality issues or challenges with reporting in an open and transparent manner. Our clinical working groups base their planning around national datasets noted below, and can be used to tell a story; we need to try and read what the available metrics are telling us and maximise the potential benefits they offer. Please [get in touch](#) to learn more.

National Dataset Information

Model Health System: an ever increasing number of metrics related to healthcare can be viewed at a provider and regional level; in particular children surgery GIRFT metrics have now been published: <https://model.nhs.uk>

Waiting List Data: the national elective waiting list data set has been reported by provider Trusts on a weekly basis since June 2021 - you can interrogate local and regional waiting lists: <https://nwl.raidr.nhs.uk>

Both systems can be viewed by all NHS employees.

Clinical Working Group Updates

T&O: the group met on 9th January and reviewed the recently published GIRFT metrics. Following discussion, it was agreed to prioritise the forearm and wrist fracture manipulation pathway with agreement to further review regional data and share pathways with an aim to develop best practice recommendations.

General Surgery & Urology: the group will meet on 2nd February. Since the last meeting, a draft of circumcision best practice recommendations have been developed which will be reviewed at the meeting. Additional discussions on testicular torsion and suspected appendicitis pathways are planned for the meeting.

ENT: since the group last met in October, the survey of post-tonsillectomy pain management and the audit of emergency patient readmissions following a tonsillectomy have been agreed, and both projects are in progress with good regional contribution to date. These will be presented at the next meeting on February 22nd.

Optimising MRI Pathways for Children: the newly established cross-ODN group to optimise MRI pathways is due to meet again on the 22nd February. To date, the group have focused on sharing resources through the ODN website and the newly established NHS Futures Platform; next steps will be to consider best practice recommendations.

Clinical Nurses' Forum: the latest forum met on 24th January, focusing on Quality Improvement. Using QI methodology provides a structure to allow small steps of change, generating data for improvement purposes. A piece of work by Dr Hodges in Taunton was showcased, demonstrating the value of standardised patient trolleys, leading to increased patient safety, reduced staff workload, and increased efficiencies.

Pre-Assessment: we are now half way through our pilot pre-assessment course, and are in the process of meeting all our candidates for a mid-way meeting to ensure competency achievement is progressing, and any challenges are overcome before final assessments are due in April 2023. We have taken onboard feedback and made improvements to the upcoming course for Spring/Summer 23, and will shortly be looking for nominations from each hospital. The Pre-Assessment Working Group recently audited against the national standards – please can the areas identified share their operating procedures and policies. All documents from our providers will be shared via our NHS Futures platform, and all other internet-based resources will be shared on our website.

BRHC - Annual Report



Bristol Royal Hospital for Children have published their **2021/2022 Annual Review**, which includes information about their services, highlights from the past year, and aspirations for the future.

You can read the report [here](#).

Day Case Chairs: Royal United Hospitals

Bath, like other paediatric units, relied upon using inpatient beds for day surgery patients. This meant that during covid19 pandemic pressures, day case surgery suffered due to the need to utilise all available inpatient beds, and some patients were also staying overnight if their surgery was later in the day.



By successfully stating the case for having dedicated day surgery space for children, they were able to open a 6-bay day area in previously underutilised space. This was commissioned with fully reclining chairs rather than beds and has meant that the rate of day case surgery has gone up since opening the new unit, and children are able to have their parents with them while in hospital and then go home on the same day when fit for discharge. This has been a great addition to the paediatric services offered at Bath, meaning less cancellation of children's operations during peak pressures, and providing a better patient experience.

The impact of the unit is challenging to measure. The ODN and colleagues are now tracking



day case rates on a quarterly basis, and the RUH's data shown here shows the team are now meeting the 80% target which is a great achievement — well done!

Spring Meeting Dates

2nd February: General Surgery & Urology Working Group

22nd February: Optimising MRI Pathways for Children

22nd February: ENT Working Group

28th February: Pre-Assessment Working Group

13th March: Network Board

Contact Us

Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about our areas of work or be added to our distribution lists:



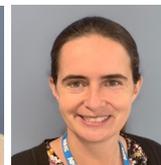
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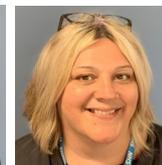
southwestsicodn.nhs.uk



Simon Courtman
Clinical Lead



Catherine Carpenter-Clawson
Network Manager



Gael Rolls
Lead Nurse



Tania Sparks
Support Manager