



Updates from your Surgery in Children Network

Supporting end to end experience

A message from Simon...

At our service review meetings in 2022, we had the opportunity to discuss surgical activity and data with colleagues around the region. This provided an opportunity for colleagues to share challenges or concerns that are perhaps wider than surgical pathways, but have an influence on either our local surgical teams or the children and parents that access our services.

We felt it important that we took note of these wider issues - although as we, due to our focus on children's surgical services, might not be able to resource making direct change, we hope to be able to maximise the benefits of our wider network to keep stakeholders informed on challenges and themes that were raised at the reviews.

We hope you find it helpful that we have dedicated this newsletter to updates on wider elements of the children's surgical pathway.

Simon Courtman
Clinical Director, SW SIC ODN



SW Little Journey Roll Out: Progress Update

Supporting and capturing patient experience was an important topic of discussions at our review meetings - it



was noted that several organisations across the South West are using a platform called Little Journey. We are pleased that the majority of providers in the South West are now progressing with the roll out of this service to their patients.

ODP / Theatre Recovery Training

In the South West, we are fortunate to have Paediatric Anaesthetists and Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) who are developing a competency framework to support ODP's paediatric skills. This work is ongoing and will ultimately be shared across the region. We are also pleased to have a professional lead ODP, Katy Griffiths, in the SW working part time within Health Education England.

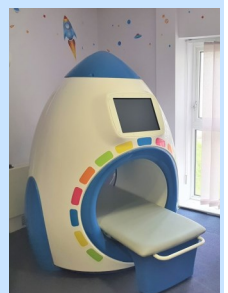
The East of England Surgery in Children ODN have been developing a course to support nursing skills and competency in paediatric patients in theatre recovery. More information will be shared shortly.

South West Play Staff Network

Within the South West we have a long-established network of healthcare play specialists which has been running now for 20 years since the first meeting was held in Bristol in 2003. The meetings are held 2-3 times per year with a brief hiatus during COVID19, and each hospital takes a turn in hosting the group. This has supported shared learning and skills in the play team, with families benefitting from knowing what to expect in each hospital across the region, and in the event of needing the specialist children's hospital they knew they could access play.

Play, music, and art are just some of the therapies we have had speakers present the latest up to date information on for our network. We have supported the development of improved patient communication and learning new skills. We are working with different staff groups across the region to enable them to work with patients in the absence of any member of the play team.

The SW SIC ODN are delighted to be collaborating with the South West Play Staff Network who are actively engaged in the Optimising MRI Pathways for Children Working Group to ensure their expertise are included in our discussions. The next local meeting of play staff is scheduled for 19th April, and the National Association of Hospital Play Staff (NAHPS) conference will be held on 23rd June. Please contact [Fran](#) in North Devon or [Debbie](#) in Truro for further information or to join.



Patients' Transition of Care

Transition of care was raised as an issue during our service reviews. This is a complex process requiring support moving from childrens to adult services. The ODN are keen to support clinical colleagues in making improvements to these pathways, and are delighted to have been invited to support Clare Skerritt and Tim Rogers in helping develop pathways for children with ano-rectal malformations. More information will be made available on our website and NHS Futures platform over the coming weeks. Please contact [Gael Rolls](#) to learn more.

Clinical Working Group Updates

T&O: the group met in January and reviewed the recently published metrics on [Model Health System](#). There were several KPIs the group wish to consider, but they agreed to prioritise the forearm and wrist fracture manipulation pathway with an aim to develop best practice recommendations.

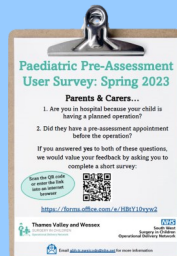
General Surgery & Urology: in February, the group approved the [circumcision best practice recommendations](#). They agreed to focus development on a regional pathway for testicular torsions which will be shared at the next meeting.

ENT: the post-tonsillectomy pain management survey results were presented and discussed during the meeting in February. This work is feeding into national tonsillectomy pathway developments. The audit of emergency readmissions following tonsillectomy is in progress, with good regional contribution to date - results will be shared in June.

Optimising MRI Pathways for Children: at the February meeting, Rebecca Powell presented findings from her regional audit of practice - the group discussed a wider roll out of the audit. Progressing best practice recommendations for MRI was also discussed, alongside considering the role of play specialists and their influence on MRI pathways.

Clinical Nurses' Forum: The last meeting focussed on Quality Improvement tools and how to use QI for improvement. Our next forum is on 26th April. Please send Gael suggestions of topics that you would like to know more about. Nurse education and patient transition will be on the next agenda.

Pre-Assessment: The group are focussed on sharing their experiences of developing paediatric pre-assessment services across our region. We have shared pre-assessment resources on our SW SIC ODN website and our NHS Futures page. Our next Paediatric Pre-Assessment Practitioners course will begin on 9th May. ***The [Spring 2023 Pre-Assessment User Survey](#) went live on 23rd March****



Upcoming Networking Events

South Paediatric Neurosciences Festival

The South Paediatric Neurosciences Festival is a free MDT event hosted by the South Paediatric Neurosciences ODN for colleagues within Thames Valley & Wessex and the South West. It will take place on **Tuesday 18th April** at Alexandra House, Wiltshire - click [here](#) to view the agenda & register.



South West Paediatric Mental Health Network



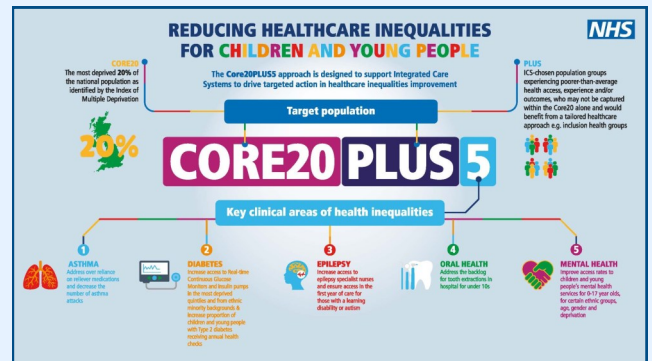
The South West Paediatric Mental Health Network are holding their second annual networking event at the Holiday Inn Taunton (M5) on **Wednesday 26th April**. The programme will showcase innovations and activity across the region, with practical workshops taking place in the afternoon. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Health Inequalities: Core20PLUS5

Health Inequalities was another key area of focus across the reviews. Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England approach to support the reduction of health inequalities, by defining a target population cohort and identifying 5 clinical focus areas requiring improvement.

The approach was initially focussed on healthcare inequalities experienced by adults, and has now been adapted to apply to children and young people.

The five clinical areas of focus are highlighted as Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Oral Health, and Mental Health. Learn more about Core20Plus5 [here](#).



! Patient Safety Alert

The National Tracheostomy Safety Project have issued a notification of potential problems with Bivona silicone tracheostomy tubes. They have been found to break at various points: eyelet and base of the flange, and junction with the universal connector. Please contact [Gael](#) for further information.



Summer Meeting Dates

- 26th April: South West SIC Nursing Forum
- 3rd May: Restoration and Service Improvement:
- 25th May: Optimising MRI Pathways for Children
- 7th June: Pre-Assessment Working Group
- 9th June: Trauma & Orthopaedic Working Group
- 12th June: General Surgery & Urology Working Group
- 19th June: SW SIC Network Board
- 28th June: ENT Working Group
- 3rd July (TBC): GIRFT Team Review of SW SIC ODN

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:



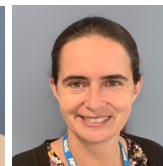
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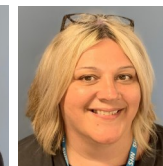
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