

WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the first ever newsletter of the Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Neonatal Network. We intend that 'News' becomes a regular feature, keeping people involved in Neonatal services in touch with both the work of the network and each other.

Our ambition is to make the best use of all your enthusiasm, talent, commitment and sheer dedication to improve the quality and consistency of our services throughout our patch. We want to help you to do your job the way you know it should be done, by sharing best practice, pooling our knowledge and learning together.

Our ultimate aim, which I know you all share, is "better care for babies".

I look forward to sharing our experiences as the network develops over the coming months.

Jon Crockett. Chair – Neonatal Network Board

UNIT DESIGNATION PROCESS

The network is undertaking a large piece of work on capacity planning and the future designation of each neonatal unit in order to effectively use the available resources. The process below was identified by stakeholders at an event held on the 23rd February and agreed at the following Board meeting.

April 2005	Additional information requested from units
May 2005	Units submit additional information
April – May 2005	Capacity planning analysis
23 rd May 2005	Initial appraisal of options (network team with independent external advice)
29 th June 2005	Workshop for organisations within the network to discuss option appraisal
10 th August 2005	Report with recommended designation of units presented to Network Board
September 2005	Network Board recommendation presented to Specialised Services Commissioners

Meet the Network TEAM



Jon Crockett



Andy Spencer



Ruth Moore



Sarah Carnwell

The network teams contact details are:

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The team is based at the:

University Hospital of North Staffordshire, Newcastle Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QG.

For more information our website is now up and running at:

www.newbornnetworks.org.uk/staffs

If you have any comments or would like to get involved please contact a member of the Network Team.

Whose who?

Each hospital is represented at the Neonatal Network Board, as listed below:

Walsall Manor Hospital

Dr David Drew

Mrs Doreen Humphries

University Hospital of North Staffs

Dr Kate Palmer

Dr Dave Roden

Russell's Hall Hospital, Dudley

Dr Anand Mohite

Mrs Doreen Quammie

Royal Wolverhampton Hospital

Dr Babu Kumararatne

Mrs Clare Price

Stafford District General

Dr Ajay Gupta

Mrs Gina Hartwell

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Dr Sanjeev Deshpande

Dr Wendy Tyler

Please feel free to ask your representative for up to date information

What's coming up?

29th June 2005

Unit Designation Event

11th July 2005

Celebrating Good Practice Event

28th July 2005

Breastfeeding Group meeting

26th September 2005

Guidelines Group meeting

If you would like any further information on future meetings please either visit the website or contact a member of the Network Team.

Network Groups

Groups have been formed where a particular network development need has been identified with representatives from across the network working collaboratively together. We are keen to welcome anyone from the network area to join our groups. If you would like to be involved with a network group, please contact the chair of the group. Further information is available on the network website. A brief description of each of the groups is given below.

Transport Group - Chair: Dr Alyson Skinner

The group is responsible for:

- Identifying transport issues and future transport requirements within the Network
- Making recommendations to the Network Board to improve transport collectively within the Network in line with the recommendations in the Review of Neonatal Intensive Care Services
- Developing transport protocols and procedures for use across the Network
- Make recommendations for standardising transport, education and training across the Network
- Providing a representative from the Network to attend CTAG meetings



Research & Development Group

Chair: Dr Sanjeev Deshpande

The group is responsible for developing and facilitating research and audit across the neonatal Network.

- Providing peer review for neonatal research proposals within the Network
- Help in design, ethical oversight, execution, analysis and presentation of neo/perinatal research projects
- Provide a forum where hypothesis, proposals and initial presentation of results can be made
- Provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues relating to both research and audit.
- Supporting individuals with research ideas
- Collaborating both within the Network and external organisations
- Develop service centred research (service delivery innovations and management)
- Develop and encourage clinical audit and benchmarking within the Network.

Guidelines Group - Chair: Dr Paddy McMaster

The group is responsible for overseeing the production and implementation of a collection of neonatal clinical guidelines across the network. Key functions are:

- to identify the clinical guidelines required within the network
- to oversee the production of the guidelines in an agreed, consistent format
- to ensure the implementation of the guidelines across the network
- to monitor the use of the guidelines
- to identify the process for the review and update of the clinical guidelines in the network

The first edition of the clinical guidelines book is due for publication in August.

Equipment Group - Chair: Dr Wendy Tyler

The group is responsible for developing a three year equipment strategy across the neonatal network and making decisions regarding prioritisation of equipment procurement. It will also monitor progress against the agreed strategy. The key functions are:

- To produce a coherent equipment strategy
- To ensure consistent equipment purchases across the network
- To provide a plan for timely replacement of equipment
- To obtain value for money

The group has achieved the purchase and installation of four ultrasound scan machines within the network and are in the process of purchasing incubators with in line scales for each intensive care cot space.

Breastfeeding Group - Chair: Elizabeth Jones

The group is responsible for:

- Promoting and developing breastfeeding across the neonatal units within the network with colleagues, babies and parents
- Providing breastfeeding support and training to colleagues across the network
- Sharing of ideas and disseminating best breastfeeding practice within the network
- Reviewing innovations and changes in breastfeeding practice in order to improve the quality of care for babies and their families



Maternity Network Launch

Following the launch of the Neonatal Network, a group of local Obstetricians felt it necessary and desirable to form a Maternity Network to advance the needs of maternity care in the Network area. Consultant Obstetricians held preliminary meetings. Funding became available linked to European Working Time Directive issues for Maternity Services. Discussions were held with both Shropshire and Staffordshire and the Birmingham and Black Country Strategic Health Authorities, resulting in the formation of a Service Level Agreement, bringing the Maternity Network to life and maintaining it for its first year. Maternity services' face many challenges in the future. These include significant changes to the training of future Consultant Obstetricians, the European Working Time Directive, new standards for the staffing of Delivery Suites and not least the ever increasing demand for increased quality and lower mortality rates. These problems can be addressed collaboratively as a Network, to provide as safe, effective and local service as is possible for our population. The launch of the Network took place on the 24th May attended by Obstetricians, Midwives, Directors of Public Health and Managers from the various Maternity Units in the Network who met to discuss a more formal constitution and set programmes of work for the next year. It will take a collective effort in order to bring ideas to fruition. A project team was identified at the launch to commence the necessary work.

David Churchill, Perinatal Services Representative for the Network