



Thames Valley and Wessex
**Congenital Heart
Disease Network**
Children's and adult services



Network update

All hospitals within our network continue to face unprecedented winter capacity issues due to staff shortages, increased demand for all NHS services and ongoing covid-19 cases. UHS, our level 1 CHD surgical centre is facing major issues getting elective ACHD surgical cases through. This is indirectly due to extra demands on GICU by covid-19 cases. There is now a growing backlog in elective work but on a positive note UHS has managed to perform all emergency work.

The Network has worked to keep families and patients informed of this situation by placing information and updates on our website. The network has ensured accurate waiting list data is submitted to NHSE on a monthly basis; and we continue to monitor the situation.

The Network has informed all stakeholders to keep regular contact with patients awaiting time-critical elective procedures and to escalate any concerns so that a patient can be prioritised if necessary.

Research

We are delighted to announce that Georgie Stepney, Paediatric cardiology advanced nurse practitioner has been successful at interview for the Network research internship and will be starting at the end of January, on a six month secondment post part-time, whilst continuing her current role in Oxford. Georgie will be conducting research within our Single ventricle and Fontan patient population. Congratulations Georgie!

As well as the Single ventricle project, our other Research project Chloe's Card is making good progress with data collection. Ten parents and twenty HCPs have been interviewed to explore what they feel Chloe's card should be and what format it should take. From the interviews the prototypes for the tool have been designed. A further five parents and ten HCPs naive to the tool have been interviewed to gather their feedback, with further iterative changes. We are now at a point to test the use of the tool in a feasibility study considering the best way in which to implement Chloe's card into daily clinical practice.

Thames Valley & Wessex CHD Website

www.congenitalheartnetwork.org.uk

The network team continue to develop the professionals section of the website and have recently launched new ACHD sections.

The professional education section is now live with links to upcoming courses and learning resources.

You can read the latest COVID-19 vaccine guidance on our website.

It would be really helpful to hear your feedback. Any suggestions would be welcome.

December 2021

Thames Valley and Wessex Congenital Heart Disease Newsletter

Clinical Forum Study Day

27th January 2022

9:00-12:00 - MS Teams

Join us on the next Clinical Forum Study Day. We have an exciting morning planned. If you would like to join, please contact Emma for the link on emma.gould@uhs.nhs.uk

Save the dates

- Clinical Forum Study Day -
27th January 2022

- Advanced Nursing Paediatric
Cardiac Course -
September 2022 (Date TBC)





Paediatric Education and training

Paediatric Cardiac Foundation Programme - 4th March 2022

This five day foundation programme is suitable for nurses caring for children with a cardiac diagnosis throughout Network including district general hospitals and community settings.

There are still Network funded places available for this course.

Please contact Sarah Bright (sarah.jones4@uhs.nhs.uk) or Emma Page (emma.page@uhs.nhs.uk).

From Monday 31st January Cate Smith will be running a drop-in forum for paediatric nurses in the region (in acute trusts and the community) who care for cardiac patients. This will run on the last Monday of each month from 2pm-2.30pm. It will be an opportunity for nurses in the region to discuss cardiac conditions, case studies and their learning needs. We hope this will grow into a formal clinical nurse forum. Please email Catherine.smith@uhs.nhs.uk for the Teams invite.

ACHD Education and training

Feedback from Chloe Naylor, Cardiology Staff Nurse who attended the ACHD Masters Module

"The course was very interesting and greatly added to my general congenital knowledge. The lecturers were all highly qualified; they were all either specialist nurses or consultants with many years of experience in the field. It covered a broad range of topics from a surgical, interventional, palliative and even a patient's perspective. I would recommend this course to anyone who is interested in congenital cardiac medicine".

Staffing update

- After a short break we are pleased to welcome Dimuthu Weerasuriya back at OUH as a paediatric and fetal cardiologist.
- UHS are pleased to announce Stavros Polyviou has been appointed as a fetal cardiologist and is due to start in January 2022.
- Becky Cutler has just been appointed as a Network youth worker and will be starting in early 2022.
- We are pleased to report that Melanie Noble will be joining the CCNS team at UHS in the new year. Many of you will know her as she has been a sister on Ocean Ward E1 for many years.
- We would also like to welcome Michelle Collins to the ACHD Nurse Specialist team.

Transition clinic at RBH

Dr Nick Hayes and Dr Elizabeth Orchard with the help of the paediatric team, have set up the first network transfer clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Patients older than 16 were invited to attend the clinic and see both their paediatric cardiologist and meet the adult congenital cardiology team in the paediatric clinic. Patient feedback was that it is hugely beneficial and the clinics are currently scheduled every 6 months.

*The CHD Network
 wishes you a very Merry
 Christmas and a Happy
 New Year*



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