



The Northern Neonatal Network

An Operational Delivery Network

Website - www.nornet.org.uk



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Northern Neonatal Network Board Meeting 14.00 Wednesday 12th July 2017 The Durham Centre, Belmont, Durham

Present

Deborah Jenkins (DJ), Network Chair
Sundeep Harigopal (SH), Network Clinical Lead
Martyn Boyd (MB), Network Manager
Peter Dixon (PD), NHS England, Senior Local Service Specialist
Lisa Jordan (LJ), NHS England, Local Service Specialist and
Chemotherapy CRG Lead Commissioner
Specialised Commissioning
Yve Collingwood (YC), Newcastle, Unit Manager
Richard Hearn (RH) Network Educational Lead
Samir Gupta, (SG), North Tees, Consultant Neonatologist
Mark Green (MGr), Network Data Manager
Mithilesh Lal (ML), South Tees, Consultant Neonatologist
Lesley Heelbeck (LH), QEH Gateshead, Midwifery Services Manager
Dennis Bosman (DB), QEH Gateshead, Consultant Paediatrician
Ann Bowes, (AB) CDDFT, Neonatal Service Manager
Lillian Malcolm (LiM) South Tyneside, Unit Manager
Debbie Bryan (DB), North Tees, Unit Manager
Majd Abu-Harb (MAH), Sunderland, Consultant Paediatrician
Mehdi Garbash (MG), County Durham & Darlington, Consultant
Neonatologist
Jackie Butterworth, (JB), Sunderland, Divisional General Manager
Janet Mackie, (JM), North Tees, Head of Midwifery & Children's
Services
Suzanne Thompson (ST), NHSE, Maternity Clinical Network
Manager
Helen Chitty (HC) – Newcastle, Neonatal Trainee ST8

1. Welcome and introductions.

DJ welcomed attendees and a round of introductions followed. DJ advised Peter Dixon retirement from his position at NHS England and The Northern Neonatal Network to be 5th October. DJ and the Board thanked and passed on their appreciation for PD's contribution and consistent support. PD introduced Lisa Jordan to the Board and thanked the Network for their support. LJ advised she would be visiting each of the units

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Lynne Paterson, Khairy Gad, Rob Bolton, Rob Tinnion, Jane Hall, Lorraine Munro, Hazel Raby, Alan Fenton.

3. Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Neonatal Network 27th April 2017

Minutes approved accepted and agreed.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Network Chair Position

SH advised comments had been received. The Board were in agreement for DJ to continue her position as Chair. DJ advised she would commit to the next two meetings. MB advised structure of the Network to be reviewed in the New Year.

4.2 Network Workforce Strategy Update

MB apologised for the delay in producing the draft report and advised this would be a priority. MB advised the working group would need to review the draft report which would be circulated for wider comment in October's meeting.

Action – MB to circulate draft Workforce Strategy report.

4.3 Network Parent Workshop Update

DJ summarised a report she had produced following the Parent Workshop held at Lumley Castle on the 12th May. DJ advised the Workshop had focused on engaging the parents and their families in discussions and creative activities addressing their thoughts and experiences. A photographer and three artists gave up their time for free. The day had been supported by Board members and staff. DJ summarised some of the points raised by the parents;

- Communicating in more simple terms when breaking bad news rather than using medical terminology.
- More support for Father's on the unit. They felt slightly pushed out.
- Environmental and funding issues whilst at hospital and at home.
- Areas for siblings to do homework and have a hot meal at the unit to keep family life consistent.
- Parents appreciated the support and care given.

LH advised the Maternity Voices Partnership in collaboration with Better Births and the LMS have support groups to engage parents and provide resource to tap in to. LH commented Rachel Tomlin would be the point of contact at the QE Hospital. DJ commented overall there had been a lot of good feedback from the workshop. DJ to produce a summary to circulate to the Board for feedback and discussion at the next meeting.

Action – DJ to produce a summary report.

4.4 Neonatal Peer Reviews

MB gave the Board an overview of the process and structure for the Neonatal Peer Reviews and advised all unit leads should have received a letter confirming their visit date and time. MB advised NHS England had set

dates for training sessions for reviewer training and organisational training. Local training dates for the Network would be confirmed. MB to email unit Managers QI and circulate training dates.

Action – MB to email Peer Review training dates and QI.

4.5 Network Website

SH asked the Board for their thoughts and expectations for the new Network website. SH advised the current website would be migrated, however it would be useful to know what was relevant opposed to what was currently available. SH advised an email had been sent to all units requesting up to date parent information along with current photographs of their unit.

The Board discussed the Parent Information App. MB advised the App was not successfully being promoted in all units and clarified with the group if there had been any communication issues. JM advised she was conscious the poster was not displayed in their unit. YC commented the App had been promoted in their unit and the cards were put in the packs. AB questioned whether it could feed into the Baby Buddy. MB advised the transport team at Newcastle were currently promoting the App. MB further commented contract for the App would be due for renewal in February 2018. Board agreed to discuss further at the next meeting once a cost for renewal had been received. MB to circulate renewal cost for App.

The Board discussed The Life Platform a web portal designed to support and manage quality improvements and sharing information and how this could be utilised within our website. The Board agreed MB to raise this at the next National Network Managers meeting to gain an insight into the technology other Networks have.

Action – MB to circulate renewal cost for App.

Action – MB to address other Networks tool for sharing information at the next National Network Managers meeting.

11. Reconfiguration / Teesside Plans Update

SH gave the Board an update on the plans for the RVI reconfiguration to increase the number of cots in a phased approach. Plans had been submitted to the CE for 2 cots in the 1st and 2nd year followed by 5 cots in the 3rd year. Discussions took place around the Teesside reconfiguration. PD advised an invitation had been extended to Michael Gregory to arbitrate the settlement between North and South Tees due to no change in direction. PD further commented if agreement to align services had not been mutually reached by the deadline of the end of September a decision would then be enforced. Both representatives from North and South Tees (SK and MD) gave feedback to the Board on their preferred options. DJ advised the Board could not comment, however a resolution between both units needed to be agreed to move ahead. DJ thanked both SK and MD for their comments and urged the units to keep to the September deadline.

5. Unit Trust Updates & Issues

County Durham & Darlington

- Limited cots at Darlington due to staffing issues.
- Awaiting a decision on pilot for Transitional Care extension past September.

- Reconfiguration for Paediatrics and Maternity needs direction.

Gateshead

- LH advised plans for expansion and improvement to the buildings had been agreed.
- Funding had been received from a lady who passed away.
- Interviews commenced for 2 band 5 staff. LT advised these were replacements not additional.
- Business case submitted for Paediatric and Maternity cross cover. This would include 4 Junior Medical staff and reskilling for ANNP's. LH advised they were looking at the rotas and impact to backfill trainees.
- Working on Transitional Care issues.

Newcastle

- Running at capacity.
- 2 intensive care cots open.
- 2 low dependency pods reopened.
- Staffing levels good.

Sunderland

- Issue with staffing levels.
- Locum appointed as Consultant for 1 year starting August.

South Tyneside

- Staffing a major issue.
- Unit under public consultation, no scope for SCBU AT South Tyneside. Consultation period ends 15th October.

North Tees

- Staffing issues, covering maternity periods.
- 2 registrars short by September.
- Research post has been taken up.
- 1st function ethnographic training well received.
- Neonate Card 2017 disseminated.
- Good feedback from the surveys.
- 1 applicant for the ANNP course.
- LMS pathway – pressure on maternity beds at Darlington and James Cook.

South Tees

- 7 full time Clinical Consultants in post.
- Recruitment drive for nurses to improve staffing levels.
- 2 ANNP trainees starting early next year.
- 1st and middle tier grade rota staffed.

Action – ML to share 1st and middle tier rota to MB.

Northern England Clinical Networks

- ST advised 3 LMS Boards were now up and running – MB to query the governance for Cumbria.
- LMS stakeholder event in September – SH/MB to share details with the Board.
- LMS Bulletin – ST/MB to share with the group.

Action – ST to share Bulletin with the group.

6. Standing Item – Network Officer Updates

No questions were raised.

7. Network Guideline for NEC/Surgical Transfers

SH advised transfers would be coordinated by the Neonatal team. SH to confirm to the Board via email.

Action – SH to confirm point of contact for Neonatal transfers.

13. AOB

Foundation Training

MB confirmed date 8th and 15th September had been confirmed at the Hilton Garden Inn, Sunderland. MB asked the Unit Leads to re communicate the date to their staff in order to fill places.

Cot Capacity

SH commented on units refusing transfers due to cot availability, however an “emergency cot” was available in their unit. AB advised they would effectively be closing the unit if there “emergency cot” was included in the numbers. MB advised there was a need to understand space and terminology to determine why some units were accepting and others refusing.

Network Representation

DJ advised Jonathan Wyllie (in his absence) would no longer be attending Board meetings and thanked him for his contributions. DJ welcomed Mithilesh Lal to the Board, representative for South Tees.

Date of Next Meeting

2pm – 4pm, Thursday 19th October, The Durham Centre