

April 2022



KENT, SURREY, SUSSEX NEONATAL NETWORK

Welcome to our latest edition of the quarterly newsletter. It has been a busy start to the year and we look forward to sharing all our latest news and success stories. If you have any content that you would like to be included in our next newsletter, please contact us on medwayft.kssneonatalodn@nhs.net

Bliss Accreditation at Conquest Hospital SCU

Huge congratulations to all of the team at Conquest in achieving Bliss Accreditation, the first SCU in the country to achieve this. Thanks to all for their hard work and dedication in the provision of high quality family centred care to their local population.



If you aren't already a member of our Futures page, please send a request to Rebecca.bowra@nhs.net to be invited. This page contains all essential network documentation, guidelines and copies of our minutes and agendas. We can also add any documents that you would like to share with the group, and other members can review and leave comments as required.

KSS Airway Group

The aim of the group is to improve the safety of babies across KSS and understand the data around successful first intubation in babies. The group has been formed in light of the findings in the STPN difficult airway audit for KSS which illustrated variation in clinical practice with respect to pre intubation checklists and pre intubation medication usage and low rates of first pass intubation success (As evident in other areas too).

Part of the work is looking at current intubation practice/guidelines and pre medication across the ODN, alongside education. A survey monkey questionnaire has been sent to each of the clinical leads to request feedback by Monday 18th April.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GVWBFFN>

New members always welcome please contact Dr Vimal Vasu v.vasu@nhs.net

KSS Nutrition Group

The KSS Nutrition Group was formed in 2021 following on from the working group on the network PN best practice document. It is a multidisciplinary team of dietitians, pharmacists, nurses and medics with an interest in neonatal nutrition. The group meet monthly via Microsoft Teams, with an aim to collaborate on further guidelines than can help unify practice across KSS. The aspiration is that this will make things easier for families and trainees moving around our network. With that in mind the current project is looking at vitamins and additives... an area that parents often identify as changing between units. There is a surprising amount of variation across our patch! We have also provided support to each other as we all move to the new KSS-PN, and are planning to undertake some data collection around the use of peripheral PN to add to the evidence base.

New members are always welcome please contact Dr Sam Edwards; sam.edwards8@nhs.net



Next PAG meeting Monday 25th April at midday. We are looking at trialling some other days of the week after this as Thursday afternoons seemed to suit several members. We are currently meeting monthly as we build our membership.

We recently voted for and decided on a logo for the PAG – see attached. This has been great to give us an identity and has been good to add to our recent posters for our recruitment drive.

We have had 20 'expressions of interest' from these posters in a little less than a fortnight. Further details and a link to a short application form were sent out today and I'm hopeful we will get a good return.

Meetings are proving to be a great place to bring up discussion points around issues such as parent access, meal provision amongst other issues and allow these to be fed back into the network. They are also naturally becoming a place of peer support for members.

Welcome to the team!

A warm welcome to our newest member of the ODN Neonatal Team, Catherine Casewell.

"I'm Catherine, Lead Neonatal Dietitian for the KSS ODN. I started this role at the beginning of March 2022 working 2 days for the network, combined with working clinically as a Paediatric/Neonatal Dietitian at Ashford and St Peter's Hospital.

I have worked as a Paediatric Dietitian for the last 22years, starting my career at Birmingham Children's Hospital before moving to Surrey in 2003. Since then, I have been working in Neonatal Dietetics as well as other specialist areas of dietetics including allergy, home enteral feeding and general paediatrics. Non-clinical areas of dietetics that I have been involved in include chairing the Paediatric Group of the BDA from 2007-2009 as well as national research and audit projects."



Important updates - National Neonatal Audit Programme

April 2022

NNAP Annual Conference – Register now!

We are delighted to announce that registration is now open for our first conference in over 3 years. Following feedback, we have decided to make this a hybrid event to enable both in-person and virtual attendance. The conference programme includes keynote speakers, updates from the NNAP clinical lead and presentations from audit participants about their QI initiatives. There will also be opportunities for Q&A, discussions, and networking. Further details, including how to book your place, can be found [here](#).

NNAP Online – New features available

We are pleased to confirm that new features and resources are now available on NNAP Online for 2020 results.

You can now download pdf and Excel versions of unit and network level annual summary reports as well as individual unit level reports for different measures. You can do this by selecting the annual report tab, choosing the type of report (unit or network) and selecting the unit/hospital. When the report displays, there is an option to download it in either as a pdf or in Excel.

Unit results posters are also available to download. Poster 1 provides specific unit details on performance against 12 measures and Poster 2 provides an opportunity to respond to a unit's NNAP results by both highlighting successes and indicating the actions that are being implemented to address areas that still require improvement. We encourage you to display these so that they are clearly visible to parents and visitors to the neonatal unit. Please visit [NNAP Online](#) for more information.

New NNAP contract period – Letter to Caldicott Guardians (England and Wales only)

Last Thursday we wrote to all NNAP leads with a letter updating the Trust/Health Board Caldicott Guardian about the new NNAP contract period and the national data opt-out. The letter is also available [here](#)

Please do ensure this letter has been passed on to the Caldicott Guardian in your trust/health board, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Reporting on 2021 NNAP data

The deadline has now passed to review and correct data on BadgerNet ahead of the final data being taken for analysis. If you haven't already, please do respond to the **Data quality assurance survey** which was sent to NNAP leads via SurveyMonkey. If you are not sure whether your unit has responded or you haven't received it, please contact us as soon as possible via nnap@rcpch.ac.uk.

CONTACT THE TEAM

All general enquiries nnap@rcpch.ac.uk

NNAP
National Neonatal
Audit Programme

 **RCPCH**
Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health
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Education Update

It's an exciting time for the KSS Neonatal ODN education team. We have been busy working with the care coordinators to provide invaluable funding for all the units in the network to access the Unicef BFI Training programme, and the level 1 Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education (FINE) course. This will massively support the neonatal care providers to deliver optimal Family Integrated Care across the region. We are in the process of wrapping up the first cohort of the Neonatal foundation programme, INFuSE (Inter-professional Neonatal Fundamentals South East) which has seen 16 members of staff of different professions and backgrounds develop their knowledge and understanding of neonates; and we look forward to seeing their future success, and their feedback of the course. The second INFuSE cohort has just started their programme: another 18 participant's ready to learn the foundations of neonatal care had their first study day this week.

We have had the fantastic addition to the network team of our new education facilitator, Rachna Sharma. Welcome Rachna! We intend to work on lots of promising future projects with Rachna's support; plans are afoot for a number of network study days, including the popular annual education day, and a neonatal airway optimisation course. Last but not least, we also have the upcoming STAR workshop, in collaboration with Health Education England; investigating how we can enhance the use of nursing associates across perinatal services in the South East. This is planned for 25th May, and will hopefully be an inspiring and valuable day for all involved.

Upcoming dates for your diary

Clinical Governance 1st June 2022 14.00-16.00

Mortality and Morbidity Forum 15th June 2022 14.00 – 16.00

Clinical Governance 7th September 2022 14.00 – 16.00

Clinical Forum 6th October 2022 14.00 – 16.00

If you require an invite for any of the above meetings, please email Rebecca.bowra@nhs.net to be added to the group.

Message from KSS AHP and Psychology Group

We are now a fully staffed AHP team as from the beginning of March this year!

Recently, we started meeting face to face at our base in Horley to work on a number of projects. Our first objective is to complete our AHP and Psychology Network scoping document. Drafting has started and we aim to have the final version completed in June.

AHP face to face visits at individual Neonatal units within the network are taking place alongside the care coordinators. These have enabled us to meet the local teams and understand more about the current service provision and roles that AHP's provide.

With regards to education and training, our AHP and Psychology team are working with HEE and other education providers to provide some training on a variety of subjects relating to our specialities. Launch date for two new education modules targeted at band 6's initially is aimed for 17th May at present. We are also working with the education lead in order to support the INFUSE programme, currently running in the South East to optimise knowledge in our local units.

Some of our highlights so far:

Physiotherapy

Following meeting virtually with all physiotherapists in the network, a survey has been circulated to gain further information around current service provision. Work has begun to enhance physiotherapy cover with the creation of job descriptions and business cases in several Kent trusts. The aim is to join together all network physiotherapists, utilising specific areas of expertise and knowledge to support each other, produce network -wide guidelines and policies, and offer supervision.

Speech and Language Therapy

Nurturing positive feeding experiences and early communication

Unit SLTs: It has been fantastic to meet the speech therapists (SLTs) working within the neonatal units across the units over the past few months. Most units have either some access to an acute SLT within the hospital or 'inreach' provided by the community dysphagia SLT. As part of our AHP scoping report I have been collecting information from each SLT around the service provision, delivery, training and governance. As we all AHP roles within neonatal units, there is inequality between area's and units in terms of access to SLT services. We also had our first KSS SLT forum in March which was very well attended and this will continue as a termly occurrence in order to build peer support structures, share complex case studies, share resources/guidelines and maintain CPD. *Workforce development/training:* As a follow on to this, a wider interest workshop is planned in May 2022 for any SLT's within our region who are interested in neonatal care and therapy. This is to look at workforce development and will run alongside the HEE modules in order to develop skills needed for working within the neonatal units. *Policy:* Currently I am also involved in writing a position paper around non-invasive ventilation and infant feeding which will hopefully go out in draft for approval later this month. The other project is around use of outcome measures and this is something we are going to look at more closely as a group and hopefully pilot within a KSS unit in the autumn. *Recruitment:* 2 SLT posts have been out to advert for Medway and William Harvey units.

It's been a positive start to this new role and the enthusiasm and encouragement from local SLTs and the Network team shown the value of us coming together as a region.

Dietetics

Having only started a few weeks ago, I am just finding my feet! I've begun to collect the contact details of Dietitians and other individuals with a special interest in Nutrition working in each unit within KSS to be able to link up with and start to understand more about service provision and Dietitian roles and responsibilities. I am also planning on establishing some peer support, nutritional discussions etc. for those Dietitians in the network.....the enthusiasm for this has been great so far.

Occupational Therapy

Having met with the unit Physiotherapists virtually with my colleague Lead Physiotherapist, we have established that there are no occupational therapists (OTs) working on the units within KSS. However, I have made contacts with OTs working with adults within some of the hospitals who have links with their neonatal AHP colleagues and some community OTs who also have links, in the hope to workforce plan! I have collaborated with my national counterparts. We have had a couple of meetings and summarised a plan to move things forwards and are in the process of finalising our statement as to what OTs uniquely offer which will make explaining concisely what as a profession we bring to the team easier! I am also due to meet with my South OT counterparts in addition to work on joint projects specific to the South regions and so hopefully speed up our productivity!

Psychology

I continue to meet with unit leads to hear about the ask for mental health support. Thanks so much for those who have given their time already! Along with the other ODN Psychology leads, I am working on a document which highlights how clinical psychologists can best support families, babies and staff on the units. The document will include recommendations for psychology staffing which we hope will aid business cases and service development going forward. I am also making links with local psychology colleagues in community services which will inform the development of a signposting document for emotional support.