

Partners in Paediatrics

Newsletter

December 2002



Steering Group Meetings

The Steering Group will be meeting 6 times in 2003. The dates for the next meetings are as follows;

- 23rd January - Room 5
- 20th March - Room 5
- 15th May - Dinwoodie Lecture Theatre
- 17th July - Room 5
- 18th September - Room 5
- 20th November - Room 7

(Please note that all meetings commence at 4pm at Stafford DGH, Postgraduate Medical Centre)

Minutes of the last meeting are available on the website. *Please note that any agenda items should be sent to Nicky Smith two weeks before the meeting.*

Latest News

Welcome Project Manager for Paediatric General and Urological Surgery

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Julia Greensall to this post. Julia has taken on the task to engage a wide group of stakeholders in discussion and decisions about the future provision of paediatric general and urological surgery across the PiP partnership. The outcome of Julia's hard work will be a business case which will be considered in the commissioning process. PiP will be holding a stakeholder conference summer time next year (2003). Julia's details are as follows; jfreyne@dial.pipex.com, tel. 01782 552002.

New Steering Group Representatives

PiP would also like to welcome Kate Reynolds from North Staffs Hospital, Anna Addison from Manchester Children's Hospital's and Mrs Helen Antill from Birmingham Children's Hospital who are now the steering group representatives for their Trusts (see web site for contact details). Many thanks to Warren Lenny, Mr Goodier and Peter Weller who they have replaced.

Programme of Work

For 2003 PiPs resources will be focused on work in the following areas:

- Paediatric Neurology
- Paediatric Diabetes
- Paediatric Orthopedics
- Generic Community Pathway
- Non Medical Workforce Project
- Paediatric Gastroenterology Network
- Paediatric General and Urological Surgery
- Paediatric Epilepsy
- Palliative Care
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Maintenance of PiP Website
- Clinical Guidelines Development with West Mercia Guidelines Group

PiPs Annual Conference

At the last PiP Steering group it was agreed by those who attended that the next annual conference (2003) should have a link to the Children's NSF in order to capture commissioners interest. It is important that the work PiP has carried out throughout the year and projected work continues to be highlighted to others. The annual conference is in the process of discussion at present, thoughts and comments are welcome and to be forwarded to Mr O'Neill and Dr Spencer.

Department of Health

We are very grateful to Professor Bernard Crump, Chair of the Strategic Health Authority, for the following report.

Each month the 28 Chief Executives of Strategic Health Authorities meet with the Board of the Department of Health to discuss the development of health service policy. The Board, which is chaired by Nigel Crisp, the Permanent Secretary of the DoH, includes the Chief Medical and Nursing Officers, the national directors of the NHS, the four directors of health & social care and the national clinical directors (the czars).

At the October meeting a significant part of the agenda was devoted to services for children. Prof Al Aynsley-Green, the children's czar, made a passionate case for greater prominence for the children's agenda and the policy initiatives that are most relevant, across government. He outlined the timetable and proposed structure for the publication of the NSF for children.

One purpose of these meetings is to look at the implementation of national policy and to share examples of good practice from the field. On the basis of previous discussions he had had with a number of clinicians and managers Prof Green asked Bernard Crump, the Chief executive for Shropshire & Staffordshire StHA, to explain the work of Partners in Paediatrics and to explore how a clinically led initiative could influence the development and implementation of local strategy and improved local services. The presentation, developed in consultation with Andy Spencer summarised the background to PiP, the partners and the modus operandi, and the products to date. Bernard explained that the StHA wished to see PiP develop an influential role in formulation of strategy, but would also wish PiP to explore a role as a formal clinical network, with additional operational responsibilities. The presentation was well received, as was the annual report of PiP which was given to all those attending the meeting.

There then followed an interactive discussion which resulted in a series of actions for Prof Green and for StHA Chief Executives.

More PoP! (Progress On Projects)

Surgery Update

The recent West Midlands Regional Review concluded that Trusts need to review their services to determine how to meet the appropriate standards for children's surgery and anaesthetics. PiP will be undertaking joint work with Jon Needham (Regional Children's Service Co-Ordinator) who is working with the 3 Strategic Health Authorities in the Midlands, to take forward the recommendations of that review.

PiP will also be working with Trusts and commissioning leads in the partnership area to determine the implications of implementing the recommended standards. In order to take this work forward the Surgery Working Group has been re-established and will re-convene in December when the Terms of Reference and the group's objectives for the forthcoming year will be agreed.

The Membership of the Group includes many of original members; however, they are joined by new members, including representatives (clinicians and managers) from the Strategic Health Authorities, Alder Hey and Manchester Children's Hospital and East

Staffordshire PCT - nominated as the lead commissioner for children's services - in South Staffs. This wider membership reflects the changes that have occurred with respect to the commissioning of services during the last year.

It is anticipated that a Stakeholder Workshop, to discuss issues and agree the way forward, will be held in the Summer 2003. A business case, to be considered in the commissioning process, will be developed by the Autumn.

PiP attracts external funding to explore Non Medical Workforce requirements for children's services.

The Shropshire & Staffordshire Workforce Development Confederation (WDC) has awarded a grant via PiP to Paul Forte and Steve Cropper from Keele University to explore how non-medical workforce requirements for children's health services might be both looked at as a whole and informed by developments in models of service delivery. The project will contribute to the aims both of the WDC, as it seeks to invest in appropriately targeted development of the workforce and of PiP, which wants to extend its earlier work on the medical workforce to non-medical staff groups.

The project has two components

- a) First, it will look at paediatric/child health services (excluding specialist CAMHS) within the Shropshire & Staffordshire WDC, and
- b) Second, it will consider paediatric gastroenterology in more depth across the PiP area. This ties in with PiP's efforts to establish a managed clinical network for this service.

Objectives are to:

- Establish what non-medical human resources are currently available for the delivery of children's health care;
- Clarify professional requirements, operating norms, and policy on which future workforce requirements might be estimated;
- Test these assumptions for selected care pathways and scenarios, and
- Estimate future workforce requirements including the balance between types of workforce (eg. general and specialist roles, dedicated and generic resources, network-wide, and local specialists).

The last point is particularly important with respect to the WDC agenda of supporting local organisations in the development of their human resources through training and workforce planning. The aim is to understand better how workforce roles are changing and adapting - or are likely to do so - over the next few years.

The project aims are ambitious and so we will be actively seeking experience, expertise and support from members of PiP during its course.

What we will be doing...

The project team will start with existing workforce and health care activity data and, as necessary, survey Trusts in the WDC and PiP areas to establish existing levels of staffing, demand for paediatric and community child health services, and assessments of future workforce requirements.

To flesh out the survey, two working groups will be asked to make informed judgements about trends in service delivery and their implications for the non-medical workforce: one will cover the professional groups across Trusts in the WDC area; the other will focus on the paediatric gastroenterology network across the whole of PiP. With the gastro group, specifically, we plan to adapt and test an approach - 'Balance of Care', which has been used in planning services and workforce for other care groups - to explore and quantify the workforce requirements for childrens' services. Each working group will meet for two or three short workshops. We plan to complete the bulk of the work by the end of June and report in September.

Getting involved

The working groups will be made up of PiP members, from across the professions, and representation from the WDC. If you are interested in contributing to this work as a member of one of the working groups, please contact Paul Forte or Steve Cropper (contact details below).

Paul Forte (020 7359 6820 or paul@paul40.demon.co.uk)
Steve Cropper (01782 583193 or s.a.cropper@keele.ac.uk)

PiP's New Web site

In the next few weeks PiP's new website will be going live. It's user friendly and can be managed more efficiently so that everything PiP's members do within the various working groups can be added to the site whilst it is still on line. The web site address continues to be the same at www.partnersinpaediatrics.org.co.uk. Please e-mail any papers, reports, news of conferences etc from member trusts, to nicky.smith@nstaffsh.wmids.nhs.uk

Diabetes/Gastroenterology/Neurology/Psychology Update

Many thanks to speakers, organisers and delegates who attended the Gastro Forum (4th October), diabetes forum (9th October), Neurology Stakeholder Conference (7th November), and the Psychology Conference (26th November). The days were a great

success, the working groups will now be taking their projects forward. Papers and reports will soon be available on the new PiP website.

Date for Diaries!

Partners in Paediatrics and West Mercia Guideline Group Guidelines Workshop - 9am - 5pm, 13th January 2003, Salvin Room, Keele Hall, Keele, Stoke on Trent)

Partners in Paediatrics would like to invite you to engage in a workshop to develop plans for paediatric guidelines. The day will consist of;

- Short presentations from experts
- Sharing of experience
- Critiques from users
- Workshops

Come along and make your views known about the future of PiP clinical guidelines. The workshop will include group work so that everyone will have an opportunity to contribute.

This meeting is designed for anybody interested in writing or using guidelines, any status and multi-professions are welcome.

PiP and the West Mercia Guidelines group intend to develop paediatric guidelines so that they are accessible and useful to other paediatric health care professionals. The aim is also to help others gain the knowledge of writing good guidelines.

Publications

Partners in Paediatrics Annual Report 2002 is now available. Copies have been posted to all Steering Group members. Please call Nicky if you would like a copy sent to you tel. 01782 552002 or you may view it on our website

www.partnersinpaediatrics.org.uk

Are you interested in finding out more about PiP?

If so, we would be delighted to offer you more information on the partnership. If you would like to get involved in one of the project groups, please contact your Trusts representative, the partnership coordinator or PiPs Lead Clinician.

Steering Group - Trust Representatives

- Dr Kate Reynolds
North Staffordshire Hospital (01782) 552249
- Dr Colin Melville
Mid Staffordshire Hospitals (01785) 257731
- Dr John Brice
Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals (01743) 261444
- Dr Nick Vrahamis
Princess Royal Hospitals (01743) 641222
- Dr Bob Pugh
Mid Cheshire Hospitals (01270) 612186
- Dr John Gilbert
East Cheshire Hospitals (01625) 661300
- Dr Rosie Rayner
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals (01902)307999
- Dr Angela Moore
Wolverhampton City PCT (01902) 444325
- Dr David Drew
Manor Hospital, Walsall (01922) 721172
- Dr Jacob Samuel
Queens Hospital, Burton (01283) 566333
- Dr Jaishi Vaid
Telford & Wrekin PCT (01743) 761242
- Dr Rosemary Jones
Central Cheshire PCT (01270) 415384
- Mrs Alison Heard
North Staffs Combined Healthcare (01782) 275197
- Mr Peter Hammersley/Mr Greg Russell
Stoke North PCT (01782) 817428
- Mr Andrew Roberts
Robert Jones/Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry
(01691) 404573
- Mrs Rebecca Burke
Liverpool Children's Hospital (0151) 2525572
- Ms Anna Addison
Manchester Children's Hospital (0161) 7272293
- Mrs Helen Antill
Birmingham Children's Hospital (0121) 3338222
- Dr Gunjan Patel
South Staffordshire Healthcare (01283) 566333

***WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!***

