

PiP Welcomes the Appointment of the New Chair

We are delighted that Stuart has accepted the position as Chair of PiP. Stuart is also the Chair of the new Shropshire & Staffordshire Local Collaborative Commissioning Board - LCCB.

PiP will be able to present business plans to the LCCB and work with the members of the Board develop "collaborative" commissioning.

With Stuart as Chair of both PiP and the LCCB, we should have a head start in getting commissioners to consider any proposals presented to them".

In Autumn 2006, Stuart was confirmed as the new Chief Executive of South Staffordshire PCT. South Staffordshire PCT came into being on 1st October 2006, following the merger of Burntwood, Lichfield & Tamworth, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and South Western Staffordshire PCTs.

Stuart has 25 years of experience working in a number of senior roles within the NHS. Prior to his current appointment, he was Chief Executive of the former East Staffordshire PCT from January 2005. Later on that year, he became joint Chief Executive of Neighbouring Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT. He originally joined East Staffordshire PCT in 2002 as Director of Finance. Stuart has a broad range of experience across the NHS having worked in NHS trusts in Leicestershire, including mental health for a number of years.



Mr Stuart Poynor,
PiP Chairman

Welcome to Vicky Brain, PiP Project Manager

We are very pleased to announce that in April Vicky Brain was appointed as the project manager for the European Working Time Directive project for paediatrics in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. The remit for the project has expanded recently to include looking at service changes such as developing services to care for children with acute illnesses in their own homes.

Vicky has been involved with the health service for over 20 years. She has previously worked for Community Health Councils and more recently been chair of the Telford & Wrekin Patient & Public Involvement Forum.

Vicky says: "Having already become familiar with the Shropshire Health Economy during my previous role as Chair of the Telford & Wrekin Patient and Public Involvement Forum, I am delighted to be able to assist with an important project. As project manager, I see my job as one of facilitating communication and co-operation, and of providing the behind the scenes support needed to enable the steering group to push the project forward. I would like to see people coming up with creative ideas for modernising paediatric services in Shropshire.

As project manager, it will be important to stay unbiased, especially when local politics are involved. This will be made easier by the fact that I am employed by Partners in Paediatrics and therefore have a degree of independence. It is going to be a challenging project, for all sorts of reasons, but it is going to be very interesting – I am looking forward to being part of the project team during the coming year".

Farewell to Peter Hill, PiP Project Manager

Peter Hill, the previous Project Manager, left PiP in October 06, to take up the post of Recovery Nurse in Theatres at UHNS.

Although PiP is sorry to see Peter go, we were pleased that he was leaving to return to clinical practice and would be continuing to work in the region and continuing to improve services for children.

During his time with PiP, Peter was a strong advocate for children's services; he developed sound relationships with clinicians and managerial colleagues alike.

Peter enjoyed his time with PiP and on leaving said he hoped that, "the work of PiP continues to make a difference for Children and Young People".

We are confident that, with Peter's expertise and professionalism, he will continue to "make a difference" to the care offered to children undergoing surgery at UHNS - and we wish him well in the future.

Farewell to Dr Janet Anderson, Consultant Paediatrician

Janet Anderson, Consultant Paediatrician & Clinical Director of paediatrics at New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton, retired in May. During her time at New Cross she had been influential in the growth of the paediatric department and the increase in sub-specialty areas. On retiring, Janet received a New Cross royal award for her commitment to children's services.

Working on behalf of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Janet has been a national organiser for training in paediatrics, coordinating the training offered to junior doctors. She has also worked as an examiner in this country, and as far afield as Sri Lanka.

Janet has been dedicated to improve services for children, both here and abroad. She has recently been involved in reviewing children's services in Malawi, and hopes to return there.

However, her knowledge and expertise will not be lost to the West Midlands region. Janet is one of the Clinical Leads, appointed by the NHS West Midlands, to work with fellow clinicians and managerial colleagues on the reconfiguration agenda.

Taking into account the requirements of the Working Time Directive and the impact of Modernising Medical Careers, she will be working to ensure that children's services continue to improve and be carried out in the most appropriate place - and are safe and sustainable in the future.

Janet has been a strong supporter of PiP since its inception in 1997. She was at our very first conference when PiP was set up. At that time she was very involved with the diabetes working group. For the past 3 years she has represented New Cross on the steering committee and has always been supportive of PiP initiatives like the guidelines project.

Andy Spencer, who once worked for Janet at New Cross says: Janet has always been someone that I have looked to for advice. Her breadth of knowledge, sound judgement and no nonsense approach have been invaluable. PiP is looking forward to continuing to work with Janet while she is involved with the re-configuration board.



Dr Janet Anderson
(Left in the picture)

Partners in Paediatrics and West Midlands Strategic Health Authority Tenth Annual Meeting of PiP Making Sense of Change 26th April 2007

PiP's 10th anniversary was marked at its annual meeting, held this year at Shropshire Education and Conference Centre (SECC) based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The theme for this tenth annual meeting focused on change, recognising the inevitability of major change in the organisation of paediatric and maternity services, but also pointing to the need for the thirty five or so participants to explore how the range of pressures for change might be understood and reconciled at local level.

The first part of the day saw a number of thought-provoking contributions.

Dr Sheila Shribman, the National Clinical Director for Children and Maternity Services opened the meeting by registering the extraordinary suite of policy and guidance now focusing attention on children and children's services. Guidance is now addressing specific issues rather than the more generic standards set in the NSF, and issues that have often been unseen and neglected in the past. Dr Shribman offered some punchy observations about the implications of starting with outcomes for the child in asthma and diabetes, management of these chronic conditions, worryingly, remains sub-optimal. She gave a number of 'top tips' for those wishing to make an early start on future service development work.

For PiP, there are potentially areas in which work which draws on expertise across the membership, which builds on previous projects and which has threads across localities. Discussions about 'hospital at home' services may be one area of interest. But there have been requests for a project to look at provision for teenagers and adolescents, at transition to adult services in particular, and which might focus on support for young people with disability and their families. PiP's Steering Group will be reviewing the future work programme at its July 2007 meeting.

Andy Spencer, lead clinician for PiP, reminded us of PiP's achievements over the ten years of its existence, and how PiP's had been founded to explore precisely the issues raised.

Two examples of local work to address service and workforce issues were given - **Clive Ryder** explained how the West Midlands Paediatric Rheumatology Network had involved parents and young people in their service review and network planning and the changes to plans that had resulted. **Julia Greensall** gave a presentation of the work undertaken in Shropshire to define and tackle medical workforce and service issues arising from EWTD and the wider review of hospital services in the County.

The main working focus for the Meeting was introduced by **Professor Ed Peile** who has been leading a Strategic Health Authority project to set out principles to guide planning for the future configuration of paediatric and maternity services across the West Midlands. His paper was intended to enable clinicians to engage with and respond to a draft set of principles that would be comprehensive but not a blueprint. With services so interrelated, the approach was to define a set of issues that represent the change agenda. The following have provided a structure for the statement of principles and recommendations that are intended to provide a helpful framework in which to review local services and make appropriate service plans.

- Assessment of the unwell child
- Primary Care Based Services
- Rota compliance
- Clinical safety and effectiveness
- Availability of skill mix and education and training for a multi-professional workforce
- Choice of service models
- Economic viability
- Transport

Groups were invited to discuss the paper and respond.

PiP remains closely involved as a consultee and through its work on service planning and workforce planning in the light of the Working Time Directive. However, the annual meeting concluded with an invitation to all participants to take part in continuing discussions about the future configuration of paediatric and maternity services.

Professor Steve Cropper

Steering Group Meeting: Mike Deegan Presentation

After the Steering Group meeting held on 25th January there was a presentation from Mike Deegan, Chief Executive at Manchester Children's Hospital, about 'The Future of the DGH'. This was an interesting talk, with a lively Question & Answer session, and was well-attended.

Mike highlighted the fact that trusts are facing many challenges and pressures for change, which will require

new models of care & service provision if services are to remain safe & sustainable in the future.

Mike had been Chair of the Project Board which reported in March 06. The Project Board developed a set of "Design Principles" which can be used locally to assist in developing service redesign & reconfiguration options.

The report - entitled, "Strengthening Local Services: The Future of the Acute Hospital", can be accessed on: <http://www.nationalleadershipnetwork.org/public/NLN-StrengtheningLocalServicesMain-170306.pdf>

Paediatric Surgery Joint Appointments Made!

PiP are pleased to welcome the two new joint appointments for that have been made at UHNS and Alder Hey. Steve O'Donnell and Shiban Ahmed will each spend 50% of their time at Alder Hey and 50% at UHNS, and they will also undertake clinics at Stafford General Hospital.

Steve and Shiban commenced in post in early May and are already engaging in discussions with fellow clinicians and managerial colleagues across the West Midlands to ensure that equitable & comprehensive surgical services will be offered to children, irrespective of where they live.

Discussions have commenced with consultants at BCH to re-launch the Surgery group again and to explore the opportunities to extend the model of networking that is in place between Alder Hey and UHNS to other parts of the region.

Second Audit of Paediatric Standards

The audit of paediatric standards, first undertaken in 2003 - has now been repeated. This work was undertaken at the request of the West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group (WMSCG), and 21 trusts from across the region participated.

The analysis is currently being undertaken, but it would appear that in many areas, improvements have been made in the provision of services provided to children in hospital. The areas where standards are still not being met are the separate rotas for surgeons and anaesthetists for children, audit and the number of RSCN / RN trained children's nurses available - particularly in theatre and recovery areas.

Further information on the audit and the work on paediatric surgery will feature in the next newsletter in December.

Mrs Julia Greensall

Rheum for Improvement - Parents Day

On the 27th January, a Parents' Education Day was held at BCH. The day was jointly organised by members of

the Paediatric & Adolescent Rheumatology Network Group (Network Group) and PiP.

Parents of children and young people with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) were invited to this event, which aimed to:

- inform parents and carers about aspects of JIA - the diagnosis, treatments available and recent advances in treatment - and share ideas to support the issues around young people growing up with arthritis;
- explain the work that the Network Group is undertaking, and
- provide parents and carers with the opportunity to talk about their experiences and concerns, and involve them in developing services in the future.

The day was well supported, with 30 parents and carers attending from across the West Midlands.

During the course of the day, a number of presentations were given:

Kathy Bailey, consultant paediatric rheumatologist, explored the possible causes of JIA and explained how a diagnosis is made. She described the various drug treatments available and the different classifications of JIA.

Nicky Freeman & Pam Whitworth, clinical nurse specialists, described the 'Cascade of Treatments' available and clarified many of the confusing areas.

Clive Ryder, consultant paediatric rheumatologist, explained how knowledge about why children get arthritis and the way the immune system works, influences the development of new treatments. He described the new treatments that are being used in 'difficult to treat' arthritis and mentioned some of the research that is currently taking place at BCH.

During the presentation given by Janine Hackett (occupational therapist) and Bernie Johnson (physiotherapist), parents were encouraged to consider the stages of development that children & young people go through and what can and cannot be done, legally at different ages.

Ruth Upton, a parent of a child with JIA, gave a personal account of how difficult it can be, as a parent, to see your child in pain. One of the most important messages Ruth gave during her presentation was that each child is unique and each family's perspective is important.

Karen Davies, consultant in general paediatrics and paediatric rheumatology, described the work of the Network Group since it was first established.

The parents' participation in discussion groups was extremely useful and many important factors were raised. One of the most important was delay in diagnosis, and

concern about the lack of knowledge and ability to recognise JIA by other medical specialties. This often led to prolonged symptoms prior to diagnosis, resulting in potential damage to joints, and unnecessary suffering and delay in the diagnosis of uveitis which, in one instance, had led to significant damage being caused to the eyes.

The information received during the discussions will assist members of the Network Group to develop services which will meet the needs of families and children – irrespective of where they live.

A number of parents have offered to help in several areas of the Group's work

A second parents' day is being organised for November 2007.

Mrs Julia Greensall



Constraint Induced Movement Therapy in Childhood Hemiplegia and Management of Cerebral Palsy

Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th September 2007, Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District General Hospital

This workshop has been organized by Dr Martin Smith, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist from Oswestry in Collaboration with PiP. We are delighted to welcome Dr Ann-Christin Eliasson (PhD OT) and Karin Shaw (PT) from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm to lead a workshop on their experience of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy in Childhood Hemiplegia.

The workshop will include an introduction to new objective assessment tools such as the Assisted Hand Assessment and Manual Ability Classification Score.

The workshop should appeal to all professional involved in the care of children with Cerebral Palsy, including Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Orthopaedic Surgeons, Neurologists, and Neurodisability Paediatricians, and also Consultant Paediatricians, Staff Grades and Registrars.

Please contact Nicky on 01782 552002 or email nicky.smith@uhns.nhs.uk if you wish to attend.

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