

# Welcome to the National Services Division Quarterly Update for November 2020.

## Part 1

### National Specialist Services Committee

The **National Specialist Services Committee (NSSC)** met online on 23 September 2020 to update members on development applications and on Covid-19 mobilisation position for designated services.

#### 1.1 New Designations

There are no new designations to note.

#### 1.2 New Service Implementation Updates

##### Complex Mesh Surgical Service

NSD and the service, based in Glasgow, are now working on agreeing the Service Agreement for 2020/2021. Activity in the first year of the service was estimated to be approximately 35 cases due to the delay of the service being designated due to Covid-19. NSD are working with Mesh Centres within the rest of the UK and would benchmark the outcomes. NSD intends to join the Scottish Council, Service Alliance and HIS to produce an engagement plan and impact assessment.

##### Adult Respiratory ECMO Service

Starting in April 2020 and delivered by NHS Grampian, work is progressing to finalise the Service Agreement for 2020/23.

##### Scottish Fertility Network

Progress in establishing the Network was delayed due to Covid-19, but has resumed in September 2020. Appointments have been made for a Clinical Lead and Programme Manager, due to start in November 2020, and recruitment is underway for a Lead Scientist.

##### Scottish Maternity Network

This Network has a fully staffed Network Programme Team, with joint Lead Clinician (shared between an obstetrician and midwife). A workplan is under development, with early priorities focusing on the Covid-19 response.

##### Scottish Veterans Care Network

The Scottish Veterans Care Network will be formally launched on Thursday 19 November. The launch will be held virtually.

### **Secure Care Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Service**

The full business case for the capital build of the unit is being developed by NHS Ayrshire & Arran and will be submitted to the Scottish Government Capital Investment Group in November 2020. The date for submission has been revised due to the delay in approval of the outline business case. It is anticipated that following approval of the FBC, construction will begin soon after (late 2020). Due to this delay and the COVID-19 pandemic, this has impacted on the proposed start date of the service for receiving patients, now anticipated this will be early 2022.

### **Paediatric & Young People Craniofacial Surgery Service**

This Glasgow based service was designated in April 2020 and has already undertaken approximately 20 procedures to date.

## **1.3 Proposals under consideration**

### **Stage One**

#### **Paediatric Renal Dialysis**

NSSC approved progression towards Stage Two application for a specialist paediatric renal service that would formalise the commission of the existing national dialysis provision and integrate with the commissioned paediatric renal transplant programme.

#### **Scottish National Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma Surgery Service**

NHS Lothian is working with NSD to prepare a Stage Two application to be brought to NPPPRG/NSSC to discuss at the February/ March 2021 meetings.

## **1.4 Horizon Scanning**

Due to the pandemic a number of proposals have not progressed significantly either as a result of diminished capacity within the NSD clinical team or diminished capacity within the applicants to progress either documentation or meet formally. Proposals currently within this group include:

- **Scottish National Neuro MRI-guided Focused Ultrasound Centre in Dundee - for patients with essential tremor and Parkinson's Disease**
- **Scottish Interventional Pulmonology Service, NHS Lothian**
- **Osseointegration Surgery Service, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**

### **PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED – current work**

- **Thyroid Cancer Network**  
Paper prepared by applicants for Scottish Government with a view to seeking short term bridge funding to continue work which was commenced within short life working group.
- **Amyloidosis Service/Network**  
Work to move this forward has been slow however Network Lead Clinician from associated network has begun to draft an application for future consideration.
- **Scleroderma Network**  
Draft Stage One application received and currently paused.

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- **Infectious Disease Network**  
Outline proposal received and currently paused. Integration with other Networks considered but fit not felt to be optimal.
- **Paediatric Radiotherapy**  
NSD have recently met with NHS GGC to discuss development of outline proposal for consideration late 2020 in line with strategic policy and support of MSN for Children and Young Persons Cancer. This is continuing to progress.
- **Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haematuria**  
NHS Lanarkshire have recently submitted outline costs for the outreach which they provide in conjunction with NHS England commissioned PNH service. Currently being considered within NSD.
- **Facial Reanimation Service**  
NSD met recently with applicant from NHS GGC with a view to considering the configuration and joint working arrangements with NHS Lothian for this service. Application expected later in 2020.
- **NPPEAG (National Plasma Products Expert Advisory Group)**  
This group have agreed in principle to align themselves with Haematology & Transfusion Network.

## 1.5 National Service and Network Reviews

All NSD services and Networks are reviewed on a three to five yearly cycle.

### **Paediatric Renal Transplant – minor review**

The review concluded that the service continues to meet the criteria for designation, but recommendations various actions to be taken around commissioning and operational aspects, including that the service work with the Scottish Paediatric Renal and Urology Network (SPRUN), to consider how best to support the delivery of local care, such as the development of Service guidelines and educational events. NSSC also endorsed the development of a strategic stakeholder workshop to develop the future model of paediatric renal service delivery.

### **Scottish Paediatric Renal and Urology Network (SPRUN) – minor review**

This review concluded that SPRUN's status should continue and to progress the programme of original objectives together with additional recommendations arising from the review. Endorsement was given to commencement of planned stakeholder workshops to consider a model of care for paediatric renal care which will inform the future work of the network and the application for extension of the transplant service. Given the need to refocus the network, NPPRG endorsed the continued designation of SPRUN over a one-year period and to review what has been delivered within that year.

### **Mental Health Cross Border Activity – minor review**

The review focused on the aggregation and assessment of data on access to specialist inpatient care in NHS England for those who have a mental health disorder, learning disability or autism and to understand if access to NHS England services is equitable from across Scotland. The review recommendations were endorsed by NSSC to seek additional clinical expertise to support the NSD Panel when assessing funding requests for inpatient mental health care and to understand the Adult Autism pathways of inpatient care across Scotland.

### **Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) – minor review**

The review concluded that the service continues to meet the criteria for designation and should continue to be designated ensuring the recommendations are accepted by the service. A further review in 12 months to ensure additional performance and clinical outcome measures are being collected to provide robust evidence of the clinical effectiveness of the service is recommended.

## **1.6 Service Updates – Covid-19**

As NSD continues to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic, this summary outlines how we are supporting the safe recovery and delivery of nationally designated services. Our key principles throughout the restart and recovery of specialist services remain in ensuring safe, equitable, reliable and consistently high-quality care.

The Covid-19 response and recovery of the nationally designated services is being managed in line with the provider NHS Board's Mobilisation Plans and the Royal College of Surgeons Clinical Prioritisation Framework.

Critical paediatric and adult care, such as transplant and cardiac surgery have continued to operate throughout the pandemic and the majority of services prioritised clinically urgent cases. In alignment with surge planning for Covid-19 second wave, NHS Boards are now slowly scheduling routine specialist assessment and procedures.

NSD are content that all designated services have commenced a phased recovery programme for specialist pathways and recognise the significant challenge ahead for the mobilisation for routine categories of care.

The GG&C Specialist Pain service remains unable to provide residential group interventions and is exploring the value of digital platforms the re-commencement of the service.

The Scottish Microbiology and Virology Network (SMVN) remains at the forefront of laboratory planning and responses.

## **Part 2**

### **National screening programmes**

Some NHS Scotland national screening programmes which were paused in March because of coronavirus (COVID-19) are now resuming safely, carefully and in a series of stages. This follows Ministerial approval of all programme recovery plans.

#### **Cervical Screening**

Participants who had been invited for Cervical Screening before the pause were advised that they could contact their GP practice to make an appointment from the 30 June 2020. Appointment invitations and reminders were issued from mid-July, with invitations sent to those who receive more frequent (non-routine) cervical screening appointments first. Routine screening resumed in September.

#### **Breast screening (mammograms)**

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Letters of appointments for Breast Screening were issued from mid-July with screening appointments commencing from the 3 August 2020. Participants who had an appointment cancelled or who did not attend in March were initially prioritised and the routine invitation process for breast screening has commenced throughout Scotland.

The Major Review of the Scottish Breast Screening Programme is continuing and is planned to report in spring 2021.

### **Bowel screening**

Resumed on 12 October 2020 now that Health Boards have been able to clear their screening colonoscopy backlog in order to deal with new referrals in a timely manner. New bowel screening kits have been issued and participants who received a kit in advance of the pause have been encouraged to return their kit for testing.

### **AAA screening programme**

The programme has restarted following the temporary pause but currently at reduced capacity due to PPE requirements and the need for local programmes to work with third party stakeholders (for example, GP practices) on suitable venues.

### **Diabetic retinopathy screening (DRS) programme**

The programme has restarted following the temporary pause but currently at reduced capacity due to PPE requirements and the need for local programmes to work with third party stakeholders (for example, GP practices) on suitable venues. The internal project to move to revised interval screening (RIS) and to introduce Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is still moving ahead but, with a revised start date. The date to introduce RIS and OCT will be by mid-December.

### **Pregnancy and Newborn Screening programmes**

Screening has continued throughout Covid-19 restrictions. Within the Programme by the end of September, screening for Patau's syndrome and Edwards' syndrome was included as offers at first trimester screening, at the same time as the option of screening for Down's syndrome was introduced. Additionally, Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Testing being offered as a second line test if a women received a higher chance result was also implemented on schedule.

Information relating to the screening programme changes is available on [NHS Inform](#) and the [National Services Division website](#).

## **Part 3**

### **NHSS National Planning Board**

The current areas of work for national planning are:

#### **3.1 Commissioned Horizon Scans**

##### **Cancer**

Discussions between NPT and Gregor McNie, Scottish Government Cancer Strategy Lead around the aims to restart cancer workstreams focused on the following recommendations:

- **Cancer Governance:** formalisation of national Cancer reporting arrangements.

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- **Cancer Workforce:** assessing the need for a cancer-specific piece of work that takes into account work already done in the cancer networks;
- **Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Centres (MDCs) and Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDCs):** Future action on hold until discussions with centres are complete.
- **Radiotherapy:** National Planning have also been supporting a National Radiotherapy Leads SLWG, meeting to discuss standardisation of processes and cross-border support in light of the impact of C-19, and NSS Architecture & Solutions are now on the group to support standardisation of Citrix infrastructure. It is likely that the outcomes from this group will be reported via the SACT and Radiotherapy sub group, to ensure appropriate governance.

## 3.2 Reviews

### Burns Care

The National Planning Board approved and supported the following National Burns Review recommendations:

- A hub and spoke framework model for Burns care in Scotland, with a nationally commissioned specialist Burns centre established in GG&C (Adults and Children); while retaining Burns facilities in Lothian (adults and children), Aberdeen (adults) and Dundee (adults). NHS GG&C will prepare a revised business case reflecting the updated volume and resource expectations, to be presented at the annual resource allocation meeting via NSSC system (scheduled for December this year linked to COVID-19) and then onto Board Chief Executives for reconsideration;
- New formal joint working arrangements between COBIS and STN to enable the use of shared protocols and pre-hospital care pathways via the established pre-hospital care group of the STN. This joint working will also consider the impact of any additional patient transfers on Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS);
- COBIS Network will take forward workstreams focusing on deprivation and frail/elderly population.

## 3.3 Service Planning

### Thrombectomy:

Scottish Government recently released funds to enable the pilot phase of this service in the North of Scotland to commence early November 2020. The Thrombectomy Advisory Group (TAG) continues to work on planning to build a service for rest of Scotland albeit significant challenges continue to limit some work-streams, however, key areas of progress to note are:

- The North of Scotland Thrombectomy centre in Ninewells has commenced a supervised teaching phase with Interventional Radiologists supervised by an Interventional Neuro Radiologist (INRs);
- Edinburgh and Glasgow centres are inter-dependant with QEUH and DCN/RHSC building challenges for additional biplanar suites. Feasibility studies are complete for Glasgow;
- Due to COVID delays, finances for a recurring service have not yet been finalised, however SG have dedicated a further £1M non-recurring for 2020/21 to assist with the next planning and pilot phasing;

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- On-line weekly clinical training sessions have commenced with around 35 stroke physicians attending each week;
- On-line CTA interpretation training is on-going with approximately 800 sessions registered;
- Nurse training packages are now complete, with nurses in the North of Scotland having completed the training, national roll-out is now planned.

### **Robotic Assisted Surgery (RAS) Review:**

The first meetings of the Clinical Reference Group and the Programme Oversight Group have now both taken place, to agree Terms of Reference and confirm the group's objectives. This group will look at the infrastructure, capital, procurement elements on a 'Once for Scotland' approach, to increasing RAS appropriately and proportionately across Scotland for the medium to long term.

A Data sub group has been formed which Dr Ward will lead on for National Planning, with a focus on capacity, volume and outcomes - which will give the RAS Clinical Reference Group a baseline to work from when planning robotic system numbers and placement (i.e. locally, regionally, nationally).

The Cancer Recovery Group is working with the local and regional elements of prioritisation and data regarding the backlog and they will co-ordinate and support timely access for cases, optimising the use of the four robotic units in Scotland to their maximum.

### **CT Coronary Angiogram (CTCA):**

National Planning, together with SCIN (Scottish Clinical Imaging Network) undertook an audit of CTCA provision across Scotland to identify gaps, and representatives from the CTCA group took a short paper and presentation to the Imaging Executive Board (IEB) in August 2020 and Diagnostics in Scotland Steering Group (DiSSG), to propose working together to improve access to CTCA and to develop equitable provision in Scotland. Both these groups were supportive of the approach and agreed that the National Planning Cardiac Diagnostics Group would be the best place to manage this workstream. An update paper will be presented at the autumn National Planning Board.

### **Interventional Radiology (IR):**

A Steering Group was formed to co-ordinate the national actions required to ensure a stable IR service for Scotland, and to support regional and inter-regional working for future regional IR service models. The group have been developing National IR Standards for Scotland together with a Patient Transfer Protocol. The SCIN IR CRG have developed SOPs for PICC and Hickman line procedures to be carried out by AHPs, and shared with the Chair of the Scottish Executive Nurse Directors (SEND) group.

A Credentialing sub group has been tasked with identifying suitable procedures for upskilling particular staff groups. PHI are reviewing Nephrostomy procedures carried out by Interventional Radiologists, to understand if they would be suitable for another specialty. This group reports to the National IR group and will work together with NES and SG to ensure any additional training requirements are properly considered and discussed with affected groups.

**Atrial Fibrillation (AF):**

A key action of the Stroke Horizon Scan was to review provision of monitoring of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) across Scotland. The group have been working to improve data extraction from the SPIRE Audit Tool with a Glasgow GP Cluster and a test extract has been successful from a Glasgow GP cluster - a key aim going forward is to promote use of this tool across GP practices in Scotland, to improve monitoring of patients on anti-coagulants. The group is progressing an application to SIGN to develop Scottish AF Guidelines, and will look to boards to collect locally developed guidance.

Supported by Digital Health and Care Institute (DHI), an audit of AF monitoring devices across Health Boards is underway, to determine variation in use, audit and procurement across boards. Next steps are to carry out modelling around the cost/benefit analysis of devices and clinical effectiveness, and the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) are supporting this work.

For more information or if you would like to contact us on any of the items in this update, please contact us at [NSS.nsd-enquiries@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.nsd-enquiries@nhs.scot)