

Children and Young People Committee

CYP(4)-05-12 Paper 5

Neonatal Services in Wales

Evidence from Dr Sybil Barr (Consultant Neonatologist and Welsh representative of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine–BAPM).

Areas of progress:

1. Establishment of Neonatal Network
 - Network lead
 - Network manager and support staff
2. Neonatal Transport Service
 - Consultants appointed
 - Dedicated ambulance/equipment/staff training
 - 12 hour service
3. Neonatal clinical information system
 - Badgernet system (neonatal clinical software) installed in all 13 units (clinical use and audit)
 - Cot locator system

Areas of concern:

1. Capacity (Utilisation of ITU/HDU cots; SC care provision)
 - ITU: some underutilisation (in level 2 units' i.e. inappropriate location); also some occurring outside level 3 units due to capacity.
 - HDU: overall not enough capacity, cots underutilisation in some areas (clinical competency/SC care babies taking up HDU cots).
 - wide variation in SC utilisation and admission criteria
2. Staffing Standards
 - Nursing low compliance with All Wales
 - Medical reduction in trainee numbers
Immigration rule changes
European Working time directive
3. Compliance with standards Poor
 - All Wales Neonatal service (shortfall in nursing numbers)
 - BAPM 2010 standards (high occupancy)
4. Rising birth rate (increased by 17% since 2002)
5. Risk of precipitous change rather than planned

Challenges:

1. Care closest to home Vs quality and safety.
2. Any change will need investment and reconfiguration.