



**South Thames
Paediatric Network**

Transforming Healthcare for
Children and Young People

September 2022 Network Update

Welcome to our monthly Network Newsletter, which includes our latest information and updates, as well as resources available to support local planning and provision of clinical care. Don't forget to take a look at our website www.stpn.uk for more detailed information.

STPN Dashboard and Data

Figure 1: General Paediatric Beds occupied (Jan – Sep 2022)

Activity across the region remains high, with no sign of a seasonal lull. The blue line reflects the increased respiratory virus rates reported nationally.

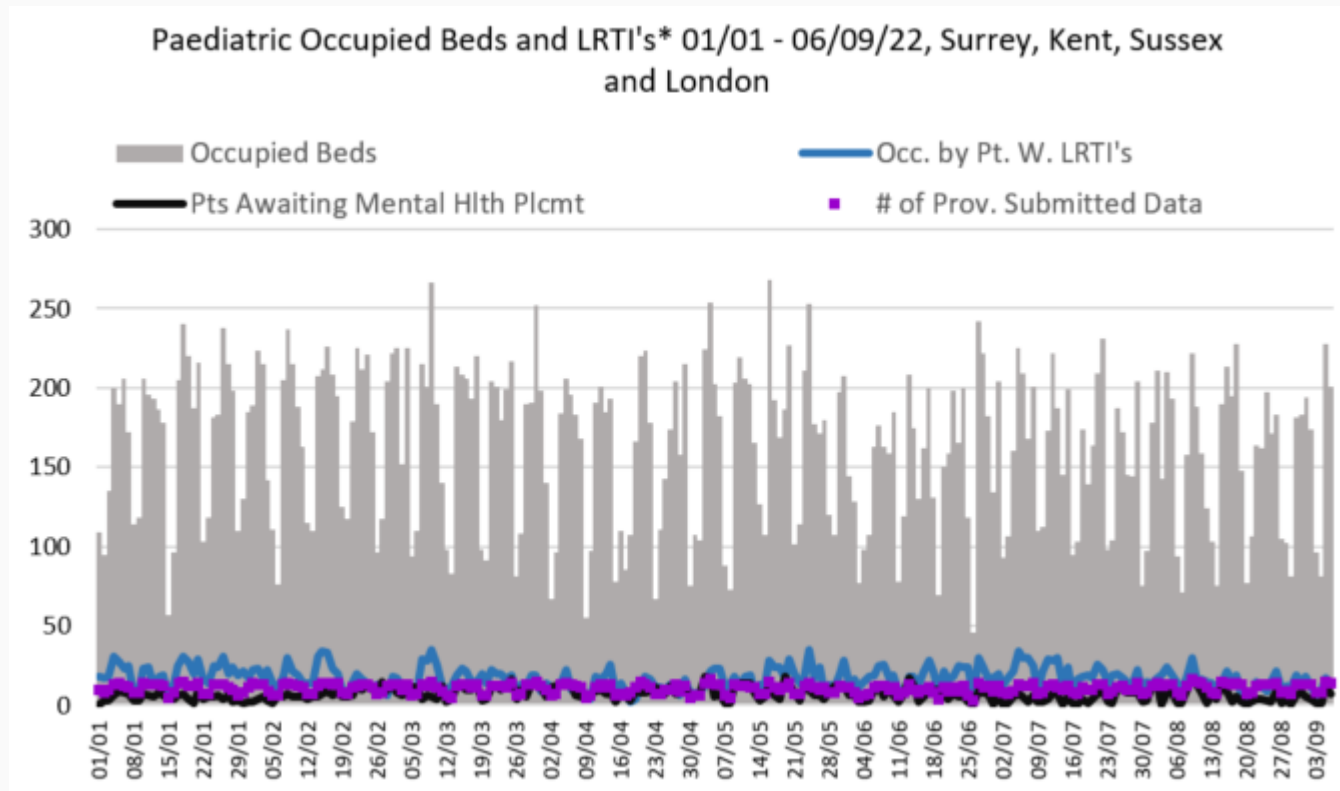
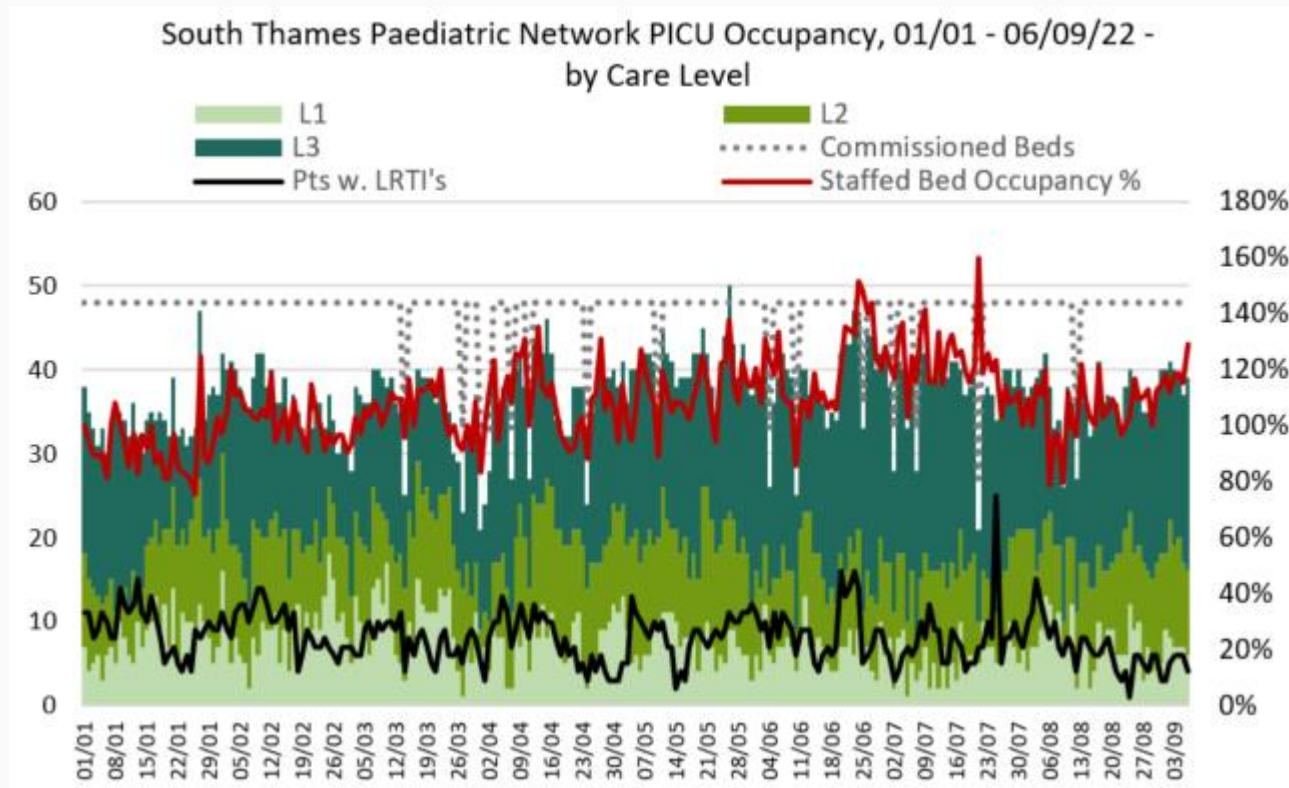


Figure 2: PICU beds occupied (Jan – Sep 2022)

PICU activity also remains high and, unusually for the South Thames region, we have had a prolonged period of having only 0 or 1 beds available per day recently.



Surgery In Children



General Surgery: Assessment against Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Standards

We have produced data packs to help each Trust to review how they are doing in meeting the recommendations from the General Surgery and Urology GIRFT Report. They've been sent to all paediatric leads and your surgical colleagues. Please take time to look at them, and feedback to us.

Inter-Hospital Transfer Guidance: For acutely unwell paediatric surgical patients

We'd like to ask your staff about their experiences of using the Inter-Hospital Transfer Guidance <https://stpn.uk/inter-hospital-transfer-guideline/>, and transferring or receiving patients, particularly your ED, Paediatric and Surgical trainees.

We have set up patient and family questionnaires to capture their experiences of being transferred to tertiary services. This will help us understand how we can improve the services that are provided to children and young people across South London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent.



Poster to print and
display & leaflet to
hand out please!

Please encourage staff and patients to complete the relevant questionnaire, by displaying the attached posters in staff and family areas.

There's a QR code on each poster to access the questionnaires

For DGH Teams:

[Download now](#) - DGH IHT Staff evaluation survey poster

[Download now](#) - Patient and Family IHT questionnaire poster

For Tertiary Centers:

[Download now](#) - TC IHT Staff evaluation survey poster

[Download now](#) - Patient and Family IHT questionnaire poster

Tonsillectomy and Adenotonsillectomy guide

Paediatric tonsillectomy is among the most common elective children's surgery in the UK. National data show that, in recent years, many

more children are referred to tertiary centres instead of being managed locally. The STPN *Adenotonsillectomy/tonsillectomy Pathway* <https://stpn.uk/adenotonsillectomy-tonsillectomy-pathway/> provides a reference for what is considered best practice across the South Thames region: all units should perform tonsillectomy and adenotonsillectomy locally, as day cases, on patients ≥ 2 years ≥ 12 kg (see the algorithm in our guide).

Long Term Ventilation (LTV)

Competencies

In the coming weeks we will be sharing a draft of a regional CYP Nursing competency framework. This will include skills for Level 1 and Level 2 Critical Care including Long Term Ventilation. To support our LTV skills implementation programme, we will release the LTV section in draft to be used imminently but the vision is for this to be integrated.

We will welcome feedback and input from you and will use the newly established PDN forums and the Education working group to achieve this.

The regional CYP parents and carers competencies are already accessible via <https://ltv.services/educational-resources/#competencies>

In the meantime please get in touch to share any concerns or questions you may have.

Patient and Family experience

We have set up patients and families questionnaires to capture their experiences of being in hospital. This will help us understand how we can improve the services that are provided to children and young people with complex medical needs across South London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

Please encourage your staff to display the attached poster in family areas and print out our A5 version to hand out to patients/parents as part of the patient's discharge letter. There's a QR code and link on the poster and leaflet to access the questionnaire.

[Download now](#) - LTV Survey poster

[Download now](#) - A5 LTV leaflet for families and parents

LTV education for acute hospitals

<https://stpn.uk/ltvedandresources/>

Discharge Reference Guide and Tools

It's already been 1 year since the launch of the Pan-Thames & WellChild's Discharge Reference Guide and Tools <https://www.wellchild.org.uk/for-professionals/research-resources/10-principles-for-complex-discharge/>. **Can you spare a few minutes to encourage your staff to complete this short questionnaire?** Your feedback will help us improve these regional documents to ensure they provide the information you find most useful in an easy to use format.



Scan this QR code
using your
smartphone or
tablet or click on
the link to
complete the
questionnaire

<https://tally.so/r/mODJQp>

LTV regional Virtual MDT starting in September

The management of a child on LTV is not always straight forward. We know that best place for a child to receive care is not always clear and involving all of the MDT across organisations that a child might be a challenging but required task to reduce safety concerns along the patient

journey down the line. For this reason we've set up an LTV regional virtual MDT forum. **If you currently have a difficult case in your unit for which you'd like some expert support or whether you'd like to review a past challenging case please complete this form and <https://stpn.uk/ltv-regional-mdt-form/>**

Gastroenterology

Referral pathways Interactive Map

We have created an [interactive map](#) in order to aid transparency across the network so all centres can see what procedures each hospital does. This map will be used to aid formalisation of the gastroenterology pathways across the Network. **Is your trust on the map?** If not please email us at england.stpn@nhs.net.

Constipation Quality of Life questionnaire

We have now had **136 response** to our Quality of Life questionnaire. This information will provide us with an understanding of how patients and families cope with constipation in their day to day life so that we can improve services for them! Please encourage all your patients having constipation treatment to complete [our survey](#).

Safe Transfer Of Paediatric Patients (STOPP)

The STOPP tool (<https://stp.nhs.uk/stopp/>) provides paediatric and surgical teams with a standardised, and objective approach to transfer while reducing the potential risk for error from human factors, and enhance local MDT and STPN insight into patient movement around the region.

Every child who is NOT critically ill, and who requires a inter-hospital transfer should have a STOPP tool completed. The best use of the tool is as a team approach to perform the checks and create a sound plan of action. At minimum there should be a qualified nurse and Paediatric doctor involved in the process.

Every quarter we will meet with each Trust's STOPP Tool lead to review the safety around non-critically ill patients transferred across the network. **Do you know who your STOPP tool lead is? If unsure please contact us at england.stpn@nhs.net**

Other Updates and information

How does the NHS in England work and how is it changing?

The Kings Fund have produced this recording to provide more clarity on how the NHS is changing and more information about ICSs. Please share with your colleagues and Networks.

https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/how-does-nhs-in-england-work?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

NICE guideline on Diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people: diagnosis and management – periodontal disease

NICE have now published this guidance. This can be accessed via this link

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG18>

Paediatric Critical Care

A big focus of the Paediatric Critical Care ODN at present is the development of a series of recommendations around Level 2 and 3 Paediatric Critical Care (PCC) in our region. There has been insufficient commissioned capacity for PCC in the region for many years. The increased activity in the last couple of years has led to increased national attention on this, which has brought the potential for some funding to support changes to our current model of care.

STPN has brought together the data hospitals have submitted to us over the last few years, feedback we received during hospital visits, and activity information from our dashboard, to develop recommendations for how much additional capacity should be created and the considerations we should take in to account when transitioning from our current state to the future. These are being reviewed by the STPN Board towards the middle of September and will be submitted to the national specialised services team by the end of September.

If you would like to review our draft report, please email england.stpn@nhs.net to receive a copy.

UKHSA Alert: Increase in Group A Streptococcal infections

There is currently a higher than expected number of notifications of Group A Streptococcal infections (scarlet fever and invasive Group A Streptococcal infections) to UKHSA nationally, these are above seasonally expected levels. Both are notifiable diseases. Practitioners are reminded to report cases and follow guidance on www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency

STPN education

Always learning together

Appendicitis e learning and bitesize teaching plan

Visit the STPN website for interactive e learning on managing children with appendicitis, learn about changes in the diagnostics of appendicitis and the growth of the use of ultrasound scanning to minimise negative appendectomy rates.

CVAD Train the Trainer second date now available

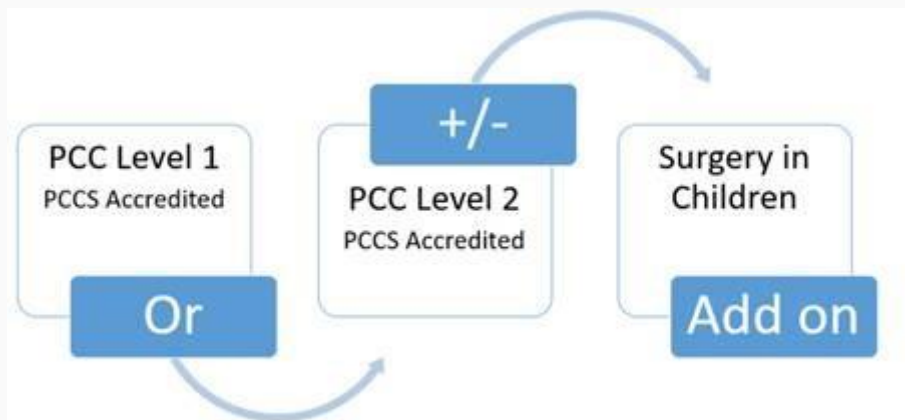
Learning how to implement central venous access device training within your clinical area. This training will cover the care and maintenance of CVADs for nursing staff who are looking after children with central lines. To apply for the train the trainer programme candidates should be confident working with CVADs and in a position to be able to teach these skills in their clinical area.

19th October for the virtual teaching day and additional placement day to be arranged after completion of the day
£30 per candidate

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/400002236457>

Autumn Course –Applications Open!

PANiCC with Surgery option



To find out more and register your place follow the link –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paediatric-acute-nursing-in-critical-care-panicc-tickets-362912319517>

Coblation course

We are working with Smith and Nephew to ensure all clinicians within our network who want to be trained in the coblation technique have the opportunity. Please email us at england.stpn@nhs.net if you want to be put on the next course during November (date TBC).

South Thames Paediatric Gastroenterology Network Education Event

The next Gastroenterology Network Education Event will be on Tuesday 8th November, from 4.00-6.00pm at St George's Hospital.

The focus of the event will be Functional Abdominal Pain and we will be hosting guest speakers and learning from case studies. Dinner will be provided.

The audience is all healthcare professionals in STPN with an interest in Gastroenterology. Please share this email with your colleagues who may be interested in attending.

Please register to attend here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paediatric-gastroenterology-education-event-tickets-408101832567>



Paediatric Gastroenterology Education Event

Join the gastro teams from St Georges
and Epsom and St Hellier for an
education and networking afternoon
www.eventbrite.co.uk

Always Learning Together

You can register to attend another of our Gastroenterology Network events, as part of our Always Learning Together@Lunch, here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/always-learning-together-lunch-gastroenterology-constipation-tickets-408125754117>

This is on Thursday 20th October and is from 1.00-2.00pm. It will focus on Constipation and will cover learning from referrals and exploring the management of constipation in primary and acute settings.



Always Learning Together @ Lunch Gastroenterology Constipation

Eventbrite - South Thames Paediatric
Network presents Always Learning
Together @ Lunch Gastroenterology
Constipation - Thursday, 20 October 2022
- Find event and ticket information.
www.eventbrite.co.uk

Evelina London Paediatric GI Motility Course 10th -11th November 2022

A practical hands on two days course hosted by the GI motility team at Evelina London Children's hospital will cover the basics in paediatric

GI motility investigations, as well as touching on the more advanced and state of the art procedures. The course is aimed at all clinicians wanting expand their knowledge around motility investigations and become competent in carrying these out in their own centres.

The first day will be dedicated to pH impedance with short lectures, demonstrations and hands on interactive learning opportunities on study set up, equipment calibration, troubleshooting, analysis and reporting.

The second day will cover oesophageal and anorectal manometry as well as electrogastrograms and EndoFLIP (including topography). The day will include short lectures covering the theory as well as demonstrations and hands on interactive sessions on set up, practical tips, analysis and reporting.

The cost of the course is £100 per day.

To book a place please email carly.bingham@gstt.nhs.uk

Surgical Masterclass

These masterclasses will give you an insight into common surgical and orthopaedic conditions and the associated complications and care pathways. It will consist of a combination of live and pre-recorded lectures, interactive discussions, Q&A sessions and case studies.

You can attend one or all of the days.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paediatric-surgical-masterclass-tickets-293217129327>

Long Term Ventilation

As part of the skills implementation role the STPN is now able to support and provide LTV education across the network's acute hospitals, both DGHs and Tertiary Centres. The training has no charge and will be delivered by LTV experts directly in your hospital through skills workshops & scenarios, complimented with resources for ongoing education.

We have run the first two dates with Lewisham and Greenwich Trust, with fantastic feedback and improved confidence. We are looking forward to returning for day two in October, and our first dates with Croydon Healthcare, Kingston Hospital and East Kent Hospitals in the coming months.

Please email emma.whitcombe@gstt.nhs.uk for further information and to book training days.

A link to current LTV training and resources which is updated regularly: <https://stpn.uk/ltvedandresources/>



Liver Disease in Infants

Calling ALL Medical Professionals! We need your help!

Every week in the UK, 20 children are diagnosed with a life-threatening liver disease. Early diagnosis is vital but lack of awareness of these complex conditions means that symptoms, particularly in infants, can easily be missed.

The vital signs of possible liver disease in newborn babies are:

- Prolonged jaundice i.e. continuing after two weeks old
- Persistently pale coloured stools
- Urine which is anything other than colourless

Our [Yellow Alert campaign](#) aims to help you and your team spot the signs of liver disease in new-born babies so that it can be identified and treated as soon as possible.

Our free resources include:

- Yellow Alert prolonged jaundice protocol
- Yellow Alert stool chart, enabling you to easily identify healthy and suspect stools
- [Yellow Alert app](#) (Available via [Android](#) and [IOS](#))

All our information is available free in printed format or to **download** to all health professionals.

You can order resources [here](#), or simply give us a call on 0121 212 3839.

Please help us to help you save lives.

 **Join us on Whatsapp!** 

Want an easy way to keep up to date with STPN events and news but without all of the chit chat? Then join our whatsapp group by clicking this link - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FjbGTLWoTWp0hv7JXZSjRZ>



Our mailing address is:
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Network Managers:

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