



STPN CHRISTMAS 2025 NEWSLETTER



We are now preparing for winter, which is always a busy time in Paediatrics. What we don't know is what affect the RSV vaccination programme will have on the need of admission and retrieval of patients to our ward and PICUs. There are predictions that there will be higher rates of Flu so hopefully overall we will be able to manage the demand and capacity that is needed. Please do look below at the resources that we have available on our website to support clinical and commissioning teams to care for these children and young people.

We have really enjoyed getting out and about visiting paediatric teams across our network. Everyone has been very welcoming and it has been good to meet face to face, have tours of facilities and hear how our work has been implemented, and makes a difference to clinical teams and the patients and families. We are finding the commitment of teams inspiring. Whilst we have heard what is working well, it is helpful to understand what is not going so well. Some of these challenges are universal and, on our radar, but we have been able to help solve some of the more local challenges quite easily. If we have not yet visited you, please do book a date for the new year via england.stpn@nhs.net

We are delighted to report that we have appointed Soraya Berry as Parent Representative to our Board. She currently works as a senior school librarian, but has a background of working in journalism, publishing and as a writer and editor, and for charities working with young people. Soraya also has experience of being a parent to a child, now a young adult who has required ongoing treatment. All this experience is very relevant to the role, and we look forward to working with her.

As we look toward to our programme for 2026, please do contact us if you have something to share with others across the network either via a Webinar or on one of our Network monthly calls. Please also sign up to become an STPN member (open to any clinical level, commissioners and other stakeholders) so we can keep in touch.

The STPN team send you greetings for a Happy Christmas. We hope you enjoy time off with your family and friends.

Become an STPN Member!

We would like any clinical staff, commissioners or other stakeholders within the South Thames Region to become a member of the [STPN](#).

Your feedback is of value and impacts the work carried out within the network. It is important to us that the right information gets to the right people, becoming a member means you opt into comms you want to engage in.

Scan the QR code to become a member.



Surgery in Children

Surgery in Children Innovation Forum 2026 – Call for Submissions

We're excited to invite colleagues from across the Surgical MDT to take part in the upcoming **Surgery in Children Innovation Forum 2026, taking place on 3rd March 2026**. This forum celebrates the fantastic work happening across our Trusts and provides a platform to share ideas that improve patient care and enhance our surgical pathways. Whether your project is **big or small**, we're keen to showcase innovations that could be shared and developed across the STPN.

You can submit any piece of work that's helping to make a difference, such as:

- A new pre-assessment service
- A needle-phobia clinic supporting patients with anxiety
- A creative play initiative improving patient experience
- Surgery models or tools that strengthen elective recovery pathways

All members of the surgical MDT are welcome to get involved - HCAs, AHPs, nurses, play specialists, anaesthetists, surgeons, and everyone who **contributes to surgical care**.

To register your interest, click here: <https://forms.gle/xQhu3rUN6LRd1qu6> or scan the QR code

If you'd like more information, please contact us at england.stpn@nhs.net

Deadline for submissions: 31st January 2026

We look forward to celebrating your achievements and learning from the fantastic innovations happening across the region.



SUBMIT YOUR INNOVATION!

Surgery in Children Innovation Forum 2026



Date: Tuesday 3 March 2026
Time: TBC
Location: Microsoft Teams

Submissions Now Open!

- Have you improved your Children's Surgical Service?
- Does it benefit children, families, or service efficiency?

We're looking for innovative ideas, big or small, in surgical pathways that could be shared and developed across other Trusts within the STPN.

All members of the surgical MDT welcome from HCAs and AHPs to play specialists, nurses, anaesthetists, and surgeons!

Register your interest using the QR code or email: england.stpn@nhs.net for further information.



STPN Emergency Airway Guidance (Launching January 2026)

We are working collaboratively with the Paediatric Critical Care ODN and a group of experts to develop a new Emergency Airway Guidance. This work aims to enhance safety, reduce variation, and support clinicians with clear, standardised pathways.

New resources including a visual infographic will be released, with a full training programme to follow. This will include:

- **Study days:** 30 April & 21 September 2026
- **eLearning modules**
- **Local Quality Improvement projects**

New Guidelines

Two new STPN clinical guidelines are now available to support consistent, high-quality care across the network. You can access each document by **clicking the link below** or by visiting the **STPN website**.

Surgical Care Admission Pathway – Guidance for 16 and 17-year-olds

Click to access:

<https://stpn.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/STPN-Surgical-Care-Referral-Pathway-Guidance-for-16-and-17-year-olds-FINAL.pdf>

This guidance provides a clear pathway for managing the surgical care and referral process for 16- and 17-year-old patients. It outlines key considerations for determining the most appropriate setting for assessment and treatment, ensuring young people receive safe, timely, and developmentally appropriate care. The document supports teams in aligning practice across the network and improving consistency in decision-making.

Post-Tonsillectomy Bleed Guideline

Click to access:

<https://stpn.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/STPN-Post-Tonsillectomy-Bleed-Guideline-FINAL.pdf>

This guideline sets out the recommended approach for recognising and managing post-tonsillectomy bleeding in children. It provides a structured pathway to support rapid assessment, escalation, and treatment, helping teams deliver safer and more standardised care across Trusts. The guidance aims to reduce variation, support early intervention, and promote improved outcomes for paediatric patients.

STPN Paediatric Pain Recommendations (In Development)

We are currently developing a set of Network-wide recommendations to support more consistent and high-quality paediatric pain management.

Our aim is to ensure that every child has equitable access to effective analgesia options including Patient-Controlled Analgesia (PCA) and Nurse-Controlled Analgesia (NCA), supported by clear, standardised pathways and an accompanying infographic.

Key highlights include:

- Applies to all environments: **ED, ward, theatres, recovery, critical care**
- High-quality pain assessment, including for children with additional needs
- Strengthened Pain Team roles, including clear accountability and a named paediatric pain lead
- Multimodal analgesia: combining pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches (psychology, play)
- PCA/NCA provision with **standardised concentrations** (aligned to NPPG, NICE, RCPCH) and **shared protocols** (with ECH permission)
- Clear stepdown and discharge pathways
- Dedicated subsections for **Sickle Cell, Trauma, Post-operative pain, Oncology, and Chronic pain**

We are fortunate to have a highly engaged group of experts from across the Network supporting this work, and we look forward to sharing the full guidance soon.



Paediatric Critical Care

STPN Winter Surge



Updated recommendations on the management of children in hospital with viral respiratory tract infections in hospital settings is available, please click the below link to access

[National guidance for the management of children in hospital with viral respiratory tract infections \(2025\)](#)

2025 Surge Webinar Series

We are very grateful to our speakers from across the network and for all who attended and participated in our Surge Webinar series. This took place in September and October with topics related to Winter Surge pressures. We had great attendance and engagement at all the webinars and hope found them interesting and helpful.

Thanks also to those who took time to feedback this enables us to plan and improve.

The STPN winter surge SOP and IPC letter is now available on the STPN Website. It includes useful resources and contacts to manage the Winter surge. To access the document, please use the QR code below:



STPN Surge Webinar Series 2025

Free lunchtime webinars to support health care professionals managing critically unwell babies, children and young people. In collaboration with experts across the network and STRS

Recordings now available on Moodle

Stabilisation in the local hospital

Respiratory deterioration and the role of the Physio

STRS - Stabilisation and Transfer

Preventing Critical Illness through Maternal and Child Vaccination

The deteriorating patient receiving Long Term Ventilation

Managing Sepsis

Looking after ourselves: Post event team reflection



Scan the QR code to access the videos on Moodle

If not already registered for Moodle please register using an NHS email address

Feedback



100% of attendees rated both the delivery of the sessions as 3,4 or 5 out of 5. Average rating of 4.8

100% of attendees rated the sessions as either relevant (12%) or highly relevant (88%) to their practice

Really professional style and so much content delivered in such a short space of time - really great resources and interactive

(I learned) the importance of planning, preparing before performing. And call for help early

Thank you. This is really relevant and helpful

If you missed out on any of the webinars recordings of all the sessions can be found on our Moodle platform - [Moodle.stpn.uk](https://moodle.stpn.uk) Selected webinars are also available on our [YouTube](#) channel along with other video.



WINTER SURGE SERIES ON YOU TUBE



MOODLE PLATFORM

STPN PCC Conference

On the 15 September the STPN held their annual PCC conference, this time in Brighton. The conference was well attended by all hospitals within the South Thames Paediatric Network. It provided an opportunity for Networking and shared learning through Presentations, Break out rooms and an interactive panel on transition.

Thank you to are sponsors:

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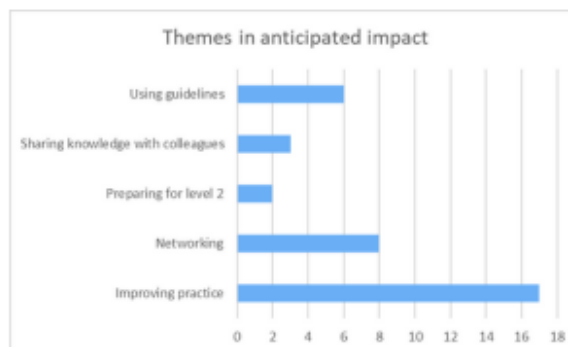
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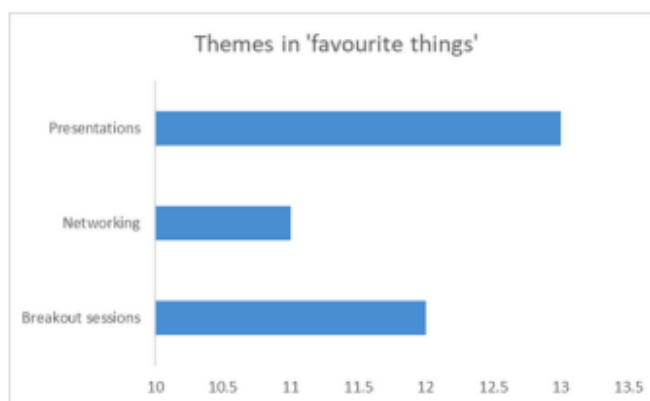


PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE

STPN PCC CONFERENCE FEEDBACK



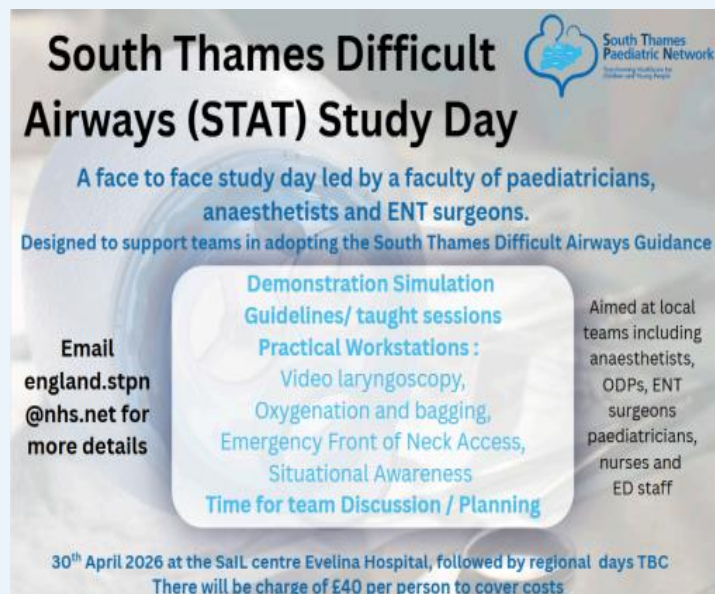
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE CONFERENCE? – THEMES



Education Update

New Face to Face Training for 2026

We are excited to announce two new face to face study days on offer for 2026.



South Thames Difficult Airways (STAT) Study Day

A face to face study day led by a faculty of paediatricians, anaesthetists and ENT surgeons.
Designed to support teams in adopting the South Thames Difficult Airways Guidance

Email
england.stpn@nhs.net for more details

Demonstration Simulation Guidelines/ taught sessions
Practical Workstations :
Video laryngoscopy,
Oxygenation and bagging,
Emergency Front of Neck Access,
Situational Awareness
Time for team Discussion / Planning

Aimed at local teams including anaesthetists, ODPs, ENT surgeons, paediatricians, nurses and ED staff

30th April 2026 at the SaLL centre Evelina Hospital, followed by regional days TBC
There will be charge of £40 per person to cover costs

We are piloting difficult airways training to support the (soon to be released) updated Difficult Airways guideline. We are asking hospitals to bring a team of people who might be involved in a difficult airways scenario to receive training and reflect on how such situations are managed in their area. To register your interest and receive further information please email us england.stpn@nhs.net

We are also collaborating with palliative care teams from the network to provide Paediatric Palliative Care simulation days. The plan is for these Palliative Care days to be hosted at venues throughout the network and open to those in the geographical area. For more information or if you are interested in hosting a day in your hospital please email

rebecca.whiting14@nhs.net



Paediatric Palliative Care Simulation Study Day

South Thames Paediatric Network are excited to offer this simulation study day. In collaboration with Evelina palliative care team, the SPACE and COAST teams and the Royal Alexandra Children's hospital.

Taught by palliative care experts and experienced simulation debriefers.

Hosted at venues throughout the network. Suitable for all members of the MDT.

Advance care planning A chance to practice in a safe space
Symptom management Signposting and advice
From diagnosis to end of life care Taking care of ourselves

1st Day: Mon 9th February, Royal Alexandra Hospital open to all UHS and East Sussex hospitals

There will be a fee per person to cover costs. Price TBC





Tony Hudgell Rehabilitation Programme

Project 2 (January 2025 – July 2026): “Developing standards of care across South London and South East England, for children and young people with neurological movement disorders, who require management of tone caused by spasticity and/or dystonia”

As we near the end of the year, we’re delighted to share some updates with you.

Reflecting on Our Workshops

Thank you

A huge thank-you to everyone who has taken part in our workshops this year. We are one step closer to developing regional standards of care for paediatric tone management.

Your suggestions are going to help us generate the statements that we seek consensus on, as part of the Delphi process. If you have missed this opportunity, please feel free to share your suggestions with us via our survey:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T8Q67ZL>

Looking Ahead: End of 2025 and Early 2026

As we round off the year, we’ll be focusing on:

- Analysing stakeholder feedback from workshops
- Generating statements to include in the Delphi study
- Strengthening our engagement with children and families

We will be seeking consensus early next year, by launching the Delphi study. This is an essential step to ensure we capture professional and lived-experience perspectives across the region.



How You Can Help

Your support continues to make a real difference. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Put parents in touch with us** - Tell them about our Delphi study and encourage them to register their interest via england.stpn@nhs.net
- **Share our posters with children and families** after their appointments
- Display them in clinic waiting areas to help raise awareness of the project and encourage participation



Join our project to help children and young people with movement difficulties

Who can take part



Children and young people:

- ✓ up to the age of 18
- ✓ who are happy to take part in an interview (with support from a parent or carer)
- ✓ who experience movement difficulties as a result of cerebral palsy or brain injury (including those who don't use words to communicate)

Why take part



Sometimes children with movement difficulties don't get the right help quickly.

Your views can help us to improve services for children and young people.

What will happen

A 1 hour interview online or in a place where you feel comfortable. We'll ask about the support and services you have had for your movement difficulties.

Meet Sammy, the therapist looking after this project.

For more information:

- email samantha.randall3@nhs.net
- scan the QR code
- visit <https://stpn.uk/the-tony-hudgell-rehabilitation-programme/>



Help us improve care for children and young people with movement difficulties

Who can take part

Parents and carers of children and young people who:

- ✓ are under 18 years old
- ✓ have a condition that causes movement difficulties (for example: cerebral palsy or other neurological movement disorders or neuro-disabilities)

Why take part

You know your child best, and can tell us what is working and what is not.

Your views can help us to improve services for children and young people with movement difficulties.

How to take part

Complete a confidential online survey (this will take about 20 minutes) by **scanning the QR code** or visiting <https://forms.gle/pYtX62CKUj2pWN1cA>



Contact us

Email: samantha.randall3@nhs.net



You can download the posters from our website.

[For Children and Young People](#)

[For Parents](#)

We would be very happy to arrange printed copies for your service, if this is helpful. Please just let us know!

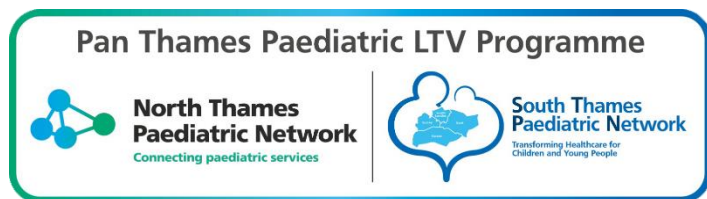
And finally.....

- Encourage your professional colleagues to contact us - Tell them about our Delphi study and encourage them to register their interest via england.stpn@nhs.net

By doing so, you'll be supporting the development of regional standards that:

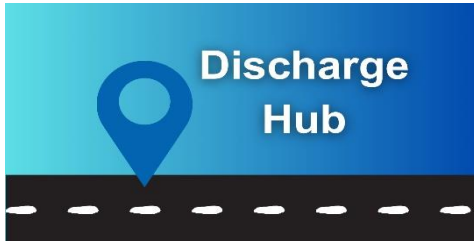

- Promote best practice across all levels of care
- Strengthen collaboration between primary, secondary, and tertiary services
- Improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people, and families

Pan Thames Paediatric Long Term Ventilation Programme updates



Social Welfare and Housing Workstream

The Social Welfare and Housing Workstream are pleased to announce the release of new resources to support healthcare professionals, patients, carers and families:

<p>DISCHARGE HUB</p> <p>The Discharge Hub is a visual guide to the LTV discharge pathway - from decision-making to long-term follow-up.</p> <p>Each stage includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Links to key resources (templates, checklists, guidance) 📘 Info icons with deeper insights <p>There is also a dedicated section on transitioning to adult services, with tailored support for young people and families.</p>	 <p>Visit: www.ltv.services/discharge-hub</p>
<p>WINTER WELARE HUB</p> <p>The Winter Welfare Hub offers information about welfare support options available during the winter months, including access to free energy and money saving advice, grant's search tools, government payment, and links to guidance for both professionals and patients about handling damp and mould.</p>	 <p>Visit: www.ltv.services/winter-welfare</p>
<p>WELFARE HUB POSTER/LEAFLET</p> <p>The Welfare Hub Poster and leaflet are quick-access materials with QR codes and links to our most-used welfare tools, like the benefits calculator, charity eBook, and grants search tool.</p> <p>The poster is designed to be displayed in patient-facing areas, whilst the leaflet version can be printed off for families.</p>	<p>Welfare Hub leaflet</p> <p>Welfare Hub poster</p>

If you're interested in joining our **Discharge Forum**, please sign up [here](#). The forum is a space for health and social care professionals working with children with complex needs. The forum provides peer support, real-time advice, and guidance on housing and welfare challenges related to discharge planning.



Our mailing address is: england.stpn@nhs.net

Network Manager: Sally Watts

Contact: 07918338799



If you no longer wish to receive these emails you can [unsubscribe](#) from this list.