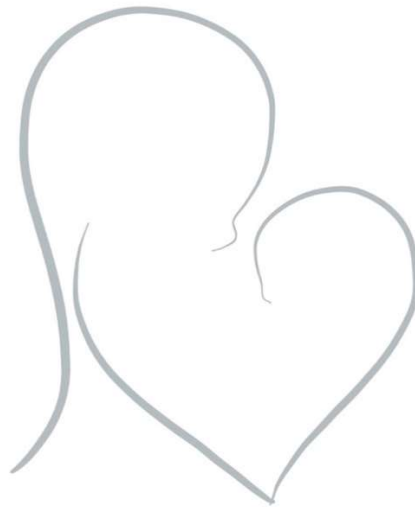


Scottish Obstetric Cardiology National Managed Clinical Network



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



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Background

SOCN was established on 1 September 2018 in response to the MBRRACE-UK report, “Saving Lives, Improving Mothers’ Care”, published in December 2016, which highlighted that cardiac disease remains the leading indirect cause of death in pregnancy.

The network facilitates clinical and other improvements in the area of obstetric cardiology through delivery of objectives set by the National Specialist Services Committee (NSSC) for NHS Boards and SGHSCD within the national commissioning process. The network encompasses care for women who either have a pre-existing cardiac condition before pregnancy or go on to develop cardiac conditions during pregnancy.

The development of pathways, guidelines and documentation to support the delivery of services that are evidence based has been prioritised by the network. This will improve outcomes for women with cardiac disease and support implementation of optimal care to any women with a cardiac condition who is contemplating a pregnancy or has a pregnancy in Scotland.

Facilitating collaboration within and across the multi-disciplinary teams involved in a woman’s care at local, regional and national levels is a key goal of the network. This work is being supported through the development of a data set and data collection programme to identify areas for improvement.

Current position

Understandably, NHSScotland’s priority during 2021/22 has continued to be to respond to and deal with COVID-19 impact and this has seen clinical and other resource diverted from network activity which resulted in fewer Steering Group and Sub-Group meetings.

The network has progressed the majority of workplan objectives, however due to clinician capacity a number are taking longer to complete than expected due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Following a directive from the Chief Operating Officer, network activity was paused from December to March, which also had an impact on workplan objectives being progressed.

Discussions have taken place with Steering Group members and Sub-Group chairs to re-start programmes of work and move forward objectives through the development of the 2022/23 workplan.

The network will continue to host meetings and events virtually in line with NSS guidance and, as soon as restrictions allow, will aim to hold one face to face steering group meeting per year and move the annual symposium back to an in person event. This will facilitate the informal networking that is critical to the development of a cohesive and supportive clinical community.

2021/22 Highlights

Effective Network Structure and Governance

Lead Clinician: Maggie Simpson, Senior Nurse Specialist, was appointed to the position of Lead Clinician of the network in September 2018. Mrs Simpson's tenure as Lead Clinician was extended until September 2022 following which another lead clinician will be appointed.

Steering Group & Sub-Group: The network has an established Steering Group and Sub-Group Structure with membership representative of the different professional groups from the network's community.

Service Agreement and Terms of Reference are up to date and due for review in March 2024.

Service Development and Delivery

Women's Health Plan: Mrs Simpson, SOCN Lead Clinician, was involved in the development of the Scottish Government's Women's Health Plan (WHP) to tackle health inequalities, including those related to heart disease. Mrs Simpson was a member of the WHP Steering Group and chaired the 'Heart Health' subgroup. Several key recommendations have been made which will affect women within the network's remit. Mrs Simpson's involvement has ensured that actions are aligned to the work SOCN is progressing.

Pathways, guidelines and documentation: Due to the impact of COVID-19 on staff resources, network members were unable to allocate time to move these documents forward towards sign off and implementation. However, the majority of the work has been progressed with plans for completion during 2022/23.

These documents are key to supporting the delivery of services which are evidence based, with the aim to improve outcomes for women with cardiac disease and support implementation of optimal care to any women with a cardiac condition who is contemplating a pregnancy or has a pregnancy in Scotland.

A "Heart Disease in Pregnancy" leaflet has been finalised along with a short animation video to compliment it and are both available on the website.

Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

Engagement continues with third sector organisations such as the British Heart Foundation, Little Hearts Matter and Cardiomyopathy UK. Several members of the SOCN Steering Group and Sub-Groups continue to present at local, regional and national events to improve awareness and education of heart disease in pregnancy.

Patient Engagement: SOCN is committed to ensuring that patient views are heard and used to inform the development and delivery of services. The SOCN patient forum has met during the course of the year and feedback from the members of the group has been used to inform discussion at sub-group meetings and workplan objectives.

Website & Social Media: The SOCN website continues to be developed to provide an effective communication and information resource for patients, families and professionals www.socn.scot.nhs.uk SOCN also has a twitter account @S_O_C_N which is used to communicate education events.

Education

A **Case Discussion Meeting** took place on 25 June 2021 and is open to network members from across Scotland. Further meetings will be scheduled in other health board areas during 2022/23.

A subject expert group has been established to develop content for an online **Heart Disease in Pregnancy module** for healthcare professionals. This project has experienced delays due to the capacity of the clinicians involved and will be a key priority for the network during 2022/23. The network has also been liaising with NSS Learning & Development and NES colleagues to scope requirements for the developing and hosting of the course.

Exceptions

SOCN Symposium: Due to a number of speakers and delegates having received notification of cancelled study leave and in appreciation of the ongoing pressures, a decision was made to postpone the SOCN Symposium which was due to take place on 1 October.

PowerApp Development: SOCN has been prioritised for development of a PowerApp solution. This is now being taken forward in conjunction with the Scottish Adult Congenital Cardiac Service (SACCS). The SOCN dataset has been updated and provided to IMS to progress. The project has experienced significantly delays due to issues being availability of staff to develop the instance. Expected commencement is now July 2022.

Heart Disease in Pregnancy Module: This project has experienced delays due to the capacity of the clinicians involved and will be a key priority for the network during 2022/23. The network has also been liaising with NSS Learning & Development and NES colleagues to scope requirements for the developing and hosting of the course.

Finance

Due to the restrictions in place and the continued use of virtual meetings, anticipated costs associated with face-to-face meetings and education events have not been incurred this year.

Plans for the Year Ahead

Looking forward

Lead Clinician: Maggie Simpson's tenure as Lead Clinician has been extended until September 2022. The network will commence a recruitment process during 2022/23.

Guidelines and Pathways: The 2022/23 SOCN programme of work will focus on finalising the guideline and pathway workstreams.

Education will also continue to be a focus for the network with objectives to:

- Host 2022 SOCN Symposium
- Ongoing case discussion meetings
- Development of an online 'heart disease in pregnancy' module for healthcare professionals

Development of SOCN Power App: The network plans to work with the Information Management Service to create a SOCN Power App to progress the collection and use of data to identify areas for improvement.

Developing an action plan in response to the recommendations from the findings of the Service Mapping exercise.

SOCN Business Plan 2021/22 - Detailed Description of Progress

Service Delivery Plan

Core principles	Description of Work	Current status	Start Date:	End date:	RAG Status
Service Development and Delivery	Using data gathered from Service mapping visits, document current pathways for women across Scotland and develop service model.	Pathways documented and discussed at Steering Group meetings on 10 December 2022 and 18 March 2022. Service model to be progressed.	01/06/2021	31/03/2022	G
Service Development and Delivery	Scope development of an online pregnancy and heart disease module.	Discussions ongoing with NES and NSS L&D regarding online course. SLWG meeting to develop course content. Work paused due to capacity in light of pandemic. Carried forward to 22/23 workplan	01/06/2021	31/03/2022	G
Service Development and Delivery	Create a health care professionals area for hosting education and documentation.	Meeting with NES confirmed that this can be created to host online course and other educational materials. To update NES as soon as timescales are available. Carried forward to 22/23 workplan	01/06/2021	31/03/2022	A
Service Development and Delivery	Creation of SOCN Power App solution to progress the use of data to identify areas for improvement.	Network has been prioritised for development of powerapp solution. Dataset updated and provided to IMS to take forward. Project delayed due to issues being experienced with availability of staff to develop instance. Carried forward to 22/23 workplan	01/08/2021	31/03/2022	A
Audit and Continuous Quality Improvement	Collate audit of pre-pregnancy counselling undertaken across Scotland.	Manuscript for publication is nearing completion. Carried forward to 22/23 workplan	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	G
Audit and Continuous	Development of guidelines, pathways and documentation	This activity was delayed during the course of the year due to COVID-19, however documents are progressing.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	G

Quality Improvement		Carried forward to 22/23 workplan			
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Business as Usual Plan

Core principles	Description of Work	Current status	Start Date:	End date:	RAG Status
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Core Team Meetings	Regular Core Team meetings.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Effective Network Structure and Governance	2020/21 Annual Report	Submitted 31 May 2021	31/05/2021	31/05/2021	C
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	The network will engage with organisations and charities to raise awareness of obstetric cardiology issues.	Meeting with 3rd sector stakeholders held on 24/05/2021 and continued engagement with charities.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	The website will continue to evolve to become an effective communication/ training and information resource for patients, families and professionals.	Website continuing to be updated and requirements discussed at Education and Comms Meeting on 11 August and 7 December.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	Network will continue to meet with Patient Forum members to ensure they are involved and able to influence its work.	Met on 24/06/21. Members continue to influence network workstreams.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Education	Establish a timetable of case review meetings for those providing cardiac obstetric care across Scotland.	Case discussion meeting held on 25 June 2021.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Service Development and Delivery	PPC Sub-Group Meetings - documentation to support pre-conception counselling (PCC) including: a) PCC Standards	Sub-group meetings held on 1 July and 2-September - documentation progressed however delays experienced due to pause of network activity.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	G

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Pre-conception checklist & toolkit. c) Infographics summarising mod-high risk cardiac conditions such as mechanical heart valves d) Animation to support heart disease in pregnancy leaflet - COMPLETE 	Heart disease in pregnancy leaflet available along with animation to support the leaflet.			
Service Development and Delivery	<p>Known Pathways Sub-Group Meetings - tools for caring for women with a known cardiac diagnosis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Guidance for the care of women with known heart disease in pregnancy b) Drugs for the third stage of labour c) Labour and delivery management plan d) Normal/abnormal symptoms in pregnancy leaflet. 	Sub-group meeting held on 27 October - documentation progressed however delays experience due to pause of network activity.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	G
Service Development and Delivery	<p>New Pathways Sub-Group Meetings – Development of tools for identifying, diagnosing and treating previously unknown cardiac conditions during pregnancy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CVD assessment algorithm for pregnant and post partum women (red flags) b) Guideline for care of the pregnant or recently pregnant woman in a non-obstetric area. c) New diagnosis guidance document. 	Sub-Group meeting held on 6 July. Documentation progressed however delays experience due to pause of network activity.	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	G

Scottish Obstetric Cardiology Network Annual Report 2020-21

	d) Key cardiac symptoms (red flags) poster Acute referral to jubilee pathway.				
Audit and Continuous Quality Improvement	Comms & Education Sub-Group Meetings	Meeting held on 11/8/2021	01/04/2021	31/03/2022	C
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Organise 3 Steering Group meetings to ensure effective delivery of the 2021/22 workplan.	24 August 2021 10 December 2021 18 March 2022	01/04/2021	31/03/2021	C
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Organise Annual Performance Review Meeting	24-Aug-21	01/10/2021	31/10/2021	C
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Lead Clinician Recruitment	Mrs Simpson's tenure was extended until 30 September 2022.	24/08/2021	31/03/2021	C
Service Development and Delivery	Publish Annual Report on Website	Complete	24/08/2021	24/08/2021	C
Service Development and Delivery	2021/22 Mid Year Report	Complete	01/04/2021	31/03/2021	C
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	Newsletter	Newsletter has been drafted for distribution.	01/10/2021	31/10/2021	A
Education	Organise and host a SOCN Symposium.	Due to a number of speakers and delegates having received notification of cancelled study leave and an appreciation of the ongoing pressures due to pandemic, decision taken to postpone.	01/04/2021	01/10/2021	R

Draft SOCN Business Plan 2022/23

Service Delivery Plan

Core principles	Description of Work	Current status	Start Date:	End date:	RAG Status
Service Development and Delivery	Developing an action plan in response to the recommendations from the findings of the Service Mapping exercise.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	Develop online pregnancy and heart disease module.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	Create a health care professionals area for hosting education and documentation.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	Creation of SOCN Power App solution to progress the use of data to identify areas for improvement.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Audit and Continuous Quality Improvement	Collate audit of pre-pregnancy counselling undertaken across Scotland.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Audit and Continuous Quality Improvement	Development of guidelines, pathways and documentation		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	

Business as Usual Plan

Core principles	Description of Work	Current status (6 month update):	Start Date:	End date:	RAG Status
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Core Team Meetings		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Effective Network Structure and Governance	2021/22 Annual Report		01/05/2022	31/05/2022	
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	The network will engage with organisations and charities to raise awareness of obstetric cardiology issues.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	The website will continue to evolve to become an effective communication/		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	

	training and information resource for patients, families and professionals.				
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	Network will continue to meet with Patient Forum members to ensure they are involved and able to influence its work.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Education	Establish a timetable of case review meetings for those providing cardiac obstetric care across Scotland.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	PPC Sub-Group Meetings - documentation to support pre-conception counselling (PCC) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Standards • Pre-conception checklist & toolkit. • Infographics summarising mod-high risk cardiac conditions such as mechanical heart valves. 		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	Known Pathways Sub-Group Meetings - tools for caring for women with a known cardiac diagnosis including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for the care of women with known heart disease in pregnancy • Drugs for the third stage of labour • Labour and delivery management plan • Normal/abnormal symptoms in pregnancy leaflet. 		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	New Pathways Sub-Group Meetings – Development of tools for identifying, diagnosing and treating previously unknown cardiac conditions during pregnancy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVD assessment algorithm for pregnant and post partum women (red flags) 		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline for care of the pregnant or recently pregnant woman in a non-obstetric area. • New diagnosis guidance document. • Key cardiac symptoms (red flags) poster • Acute referral to Golden Jubilee pathway. 				
Audit and Continuous Quality Improvement	Comms & Education Sub-Group Meetings		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Organise 3 Steering Group meetings to ensure effective delivery of the 2022/23 workplan.		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Organise Annual Performance Review Meeting		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Effective Network Structure and Governance	Lead Clinician Recruitment		01/04/2022	30/09/2023	
Service Development and Delivery	Publish Annual Report on Website				
Service Development and Delivery	2022/23 Mid Year Report		01/09/2022	31/10/2022	
Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	Newsletter		01/04/2022	31/03/2023	
Education	Organise and host a SOCN Symposium.		01/04/2022	31/06/2022	