

NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme News

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hearing.screening.nhs.uk

August 2014

NHSP conference a record attendance

A record number of more than 260 delegates attended the NHSP conference held in London.

The theme was 'Looking to the Future: Securing Excellence in Our Services' and brought together academics and clinicians from across UK and the world to share innovative research and practice. Opening the day with a presentation on 'Times of Change' was Dr Robert Sherriff the UK NSC, National Operations Lead, followed by stimulating presentations on Cultural Competence, Innovation and Equity, the New Commissioning Landscape and Building Systems for the Future.



There was enthusiastic participation from delegates who engaged in the open forum discussions and workshops which included screening incidents, aetiology, ABR and outcomes.

A dedicated satellite event for local managers was held the day before the conference led by Jane Hibbert, NHSP programme manager.

Presentations from both events are available on the NHSP website.

Sally has been with NHS since it first started



Goodbye and thanks to Sally Wood

"This is a farewell to all my friends and colleagues as I will be leaving Public Health England at the end of September 2014. I have been with the programme almost since the start back in 2001 -before PCTs existed let alone CCGs. Along the way I have been involved in many aspects of the programme -training, implementation, equipment specification and evaluation, development of eSP, incident management, quality assurance and quality improvement of screening and audiology services.

It has been a privilege to work with so many hardworking and committed people in such a successful, innovative and world leading programme. We have achieved much in terms of improving the age of identification and intervention for deaf children. I will be continuing in my role as Team Leader for Leicester NHSP and doing some work for the programme over the next 12 months so I won't be leaving the screening world completely just yet."

NN4B update

The NN4B service is being decommissioned by the end of this year, to be replaced by the Personal Demographic Service (PDS). This change ensures that an NHS number will be issued to all newborn babies and that the baby's details appear on the newborn screening programmes IT systems (eg eSP) and thus avoid the need for screening teams to manually create new and duplicate records.

When the NN4B services moves to PDS, some Maternity and Child Health services will be affected, and may have to use the web based Birth Notification Application (BNA) for which NHS smartcards are required. Trusts need to ensure that smartcards are issued to all staff requiring access to BNA.

Any user that would like to be involved in User Acceptance Testing and/or piloting of the BNA should register their interest by **contacting HSCIC**.

More information on NN4B can be found on the **HSCIC website**.



Training opportunities

The following NHSP training/assessment opportunities are available:

- **OSCE** - the OSCE on 9 October is nearly fully booked. A further date in December is therefore being arranged and will be posted on our website as soon as it has been confirmed

- **New Local Mangers Workshop** - 23 and 24 September. There will be more than 10 new Local Managers attending this workshop which will cover a wide variety of NHSP topics
- **eSP for Audiology Workshops** – 2 further workshops will be held

in London this Autumn. An email will be sent to all Audiologists on the NHSP websites contact database when dates have been confirmed. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

Questions? Contact Gail Allan (gailallan@nhs.net).

New IT system coming soon!

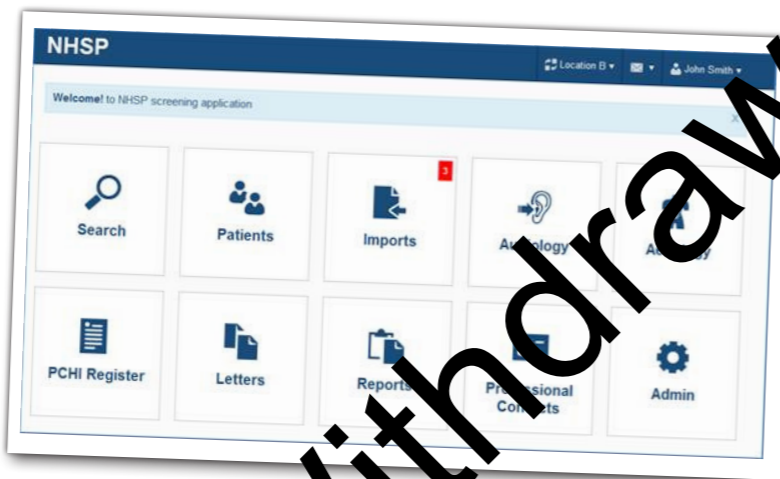
Northgate are working with NHSP to build a new screening system to replace eSP. The new system will use modern technology and will be designed with users to make it easier and more efficient to use.

The new system will be compatible with SEDQ and will be available during 2015.

Stay tuned for more updates from NHSP and Northgate as work progresses! Quick-reference guides and tips for using the new system will be sent out and the eSP helpdesk will be fully trained and ready to answer your questions as the switchover date approaches.

Jane Hibbert, NHSP Programme Manager, says "We are pleased to be working closely with Northgate in this development and plan to recruit users willing to participate in User Acceptability Testing to ensure the new system meets the needs of the screening and audiology teams."

A screen shot of the proposed eSP home page is shown above.



Learning from screening incidents

Over the last year, four incidents were reported where parents of deceased babies were contacted to offer screening or an audiology assessment. We describe the learning points and share good practice from Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust.

[Download the report](#)

Procurement framework

Since April 2014 each local NHSP provider is responsible for the purchase of equipment, its maintenance and consumables.

The framework which sets the prices and standards for product support is still in place, administered by NHS Supply Chain, who have been requested by NHS England to

negotiate a new framework to be in place by November 2015 when the current one expires.

The programme will continue to work in partnership with NHS England to develop a framework around equipment procurement and implementation.

Susan Daniels, Chief Executive, The National Deaf Children's Society and chair of the NHSP Advisory Board



Advisory board

Since national screening programmes have moved from the NHS into Public Health England, the remit of the NHSP Advisory Board has been amended.

The board sits within a framework of advisory groups for a range of non-cancer screening programmes. It is required to act as a 'critical friend' to the executive, review KPIs, and influence the quality of screening and referral to treatment. Members include representatives from the NHS, professional bodies, the third sector and users.

Good quality screening is vital because with early diagnosis and the right support, deaf children can do anything other children can.

Although the board remit no longer extends to paediatric audiology, medicine, early intervention and social care, it would be unethical to refer children onto these services if they are not fit for purpose. The board recognises that screening is not an end in itself, and that good outcomes for children are dependent on high quality follow-up services. The board intends to use its best endeavours to influence the quality of such services so that families of deaf children are properly supported and that ultimately children themselves achieve age appropriate language and communication.

IQIPS accreditation

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service; Improving Quality in Physiological Services (UKAS IQIPS) provides an external, structured and independent assessment of Paediatric Audiology Services over a four year cycle.

We registered for accreditation and organised a team event to ensure everyone was informed and engaged from the start. We nominated a Project Lead to co-ordinate the process and submit the self-assessment tool and evidence.

Every member of the team (46 in total) engaged with the process and contributed in some way. Once everyone knew what was expected they just got on with it. There was a great buzz of excitement in the department. Everyone had a chance to focus on what really matters; providing a quality service and being able to prove it.

Another group event to answer any questions or concerns and discuss the visit in more detail was held prior to the on-site assessment.

The Assessment Team arrived. They observed clinical practice and thoroughly inspected our facilities, equipment, systems and processes.

Our accreditation for all areas of audiology including Paediatric Audiology was confirmed by UKAS IQIPS in December 2013.



Accreditation Certificate being presented to Emily Halliwell Audiological Scientist by Toby Lewis, Chief Executive, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

The accreditation process provided a positive and clear goal which we could work towards together. It improved quality and raised staff morale and motivation.

Dr Suki Dhillon

Audiology Services Manager, NHSP Team Leader, Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

Policy news

Pre-term birth review

Pre-term birth is where the baby is born before the 37th week of pregnancy. The UK NSC's previous recommendation not to screen for preterm birth was based on an HTA review, published in 2009. The review concluded that no screening test and treatment combination would be sufficiently effective to recommend screening.

The current review focuses on two approaches to screening in low risk women (cervical length measurement and bacterial

vaginosis screening). The consultation is open until 17 October and comments are welcome from all interested stakeholders.

Current policy consultations

- **Dementia** (closes on 09/10/2014)
- **Pre-term birth** (closes on 17/10/2014)
- **Bacterial vaginosis** (closes on 17/10/2014)
- **Gauchers disease in newborns** (closes on 06/11/2014)



UK National
Screening Committee

Big changes to screening websites

As part of the government's plan to drastically reduce the number of websites, the screening sites will be undergoing major changes over the course of 2014.

All the screening websites (the UK Screening Portal, Continuing Professional Development site and the websites of the eight non-cancer screening programmes) will be closed down, probably by the end of 2014. Information for the public will be moving to NHS Choices (where it can be better linked to general information about the conditions being screened for), with content for professionals going to the gov.uk website. Our e-learning modules will also be moving to a new home in the course.

Rest assured that we are working hard to minimise any disruption and any risks from the transition. We hope that the final outcome will be a

better experience for all the visitors to our websites. In particular, we can provide a more integrated approach to providing information across all the NHS Screening Programmes - both cancer and non-cancer.

These changes should make it easier for people to find the information they need, increase the number of visitors to our screening pages and allow us to better integrate our information with that of other parts of government and the NHS.

In preparation for the transition, work is currently being carried out to review and update content on the current websites. During this process, some parts of the websites might not work quite as expected so if you find anything wrong, please accept our apologies and let us know at screeninghelpdesk@nhs.net.

Look out for more information over the coming months.



The current UK Screening Portal

Screening Matters newsletter

The latest issue of the UK NSC's Screening Matters newsletter was published in June. It covers the usual mix of policy and programme news.

www.screening.nhs.uk/screeningmatters

Other news in brief

UK NSC review

The *Independent review* of the role, terms of reference and membership of the UK National Screening Committee has now closed. Many thanks to everyone who took part.

2013-14 quarter 3 KPI data

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for NHS Screening Programmes for the *third quarter of 2013/14* have now been published.

Antenatal and newborn e-learning module

The UK NSC's popular *antenatal and newborn screening e-learning module* has just been updated, including new questions in the quiz.

Education Resource for PICU/ NICU Practitioners

The UK NSC has just launched a *new educational resource for PICU/NICU*

practitioners.

The resource covers the three newborn screening programmes; Newborn Hearing (NHSP), Newborn and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) and Newborn Blood Spot (NBS). The aim is that units can use this self-directed tool for staff who can work through the scenarios and examples of evidence in their continuing professional development.