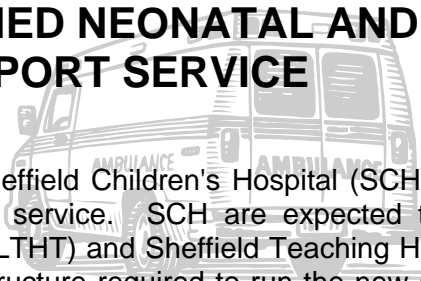


# YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER COMBINED NEONATAL AND PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT SERVICE



## Update

The Specialist Commissioning Group (SCG) agreed to Sheffield Children's Hospital (SCH) taking on the responsibility of "lead provider" for the transport service. SCH are expected to work collaboratively with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH) to provide the clinical infrastructure required to run the new service. SCH are now working up project plans to take on this final stage in the implementation of the transport service. They have established a Project Management Group which reports to their Trust Executive Group on timescales and developments and are in the process of setting up a Transport Reference Group (TRG) with representation from other key stakeholders in the service. The TRG will form the monitoring group once the new service is up and running.

## Appointments

A number of posts have been identified as essential to drive forward and progress this project. Firstly, SCH have agreed the requirement for a full time project manager for 15 months. This post has been advertised and will hopefully be appointed to in the next few weeks. Each of the current clinical providers have been asked to second a clinical lead to support the implementation. There will be four clinicians, therefore, seconded into the new service to lead on various aspects of the implementation process. A number of areas that require priority have been identified, including middle grade appointments, training and education requirements, operational guidelines, documentation, equipment and consumable requirements. The seconded lead clinicians will also be responsible for engagement and discussion with key stakeholders in each of the secondary and tertiary care organisations within Yorkshire and the Humber. A lead nurse post will be advertised shortly, along with a nurse educator. The lead nurse, once appointed, will be responsible for the appointment of the Call Centre administrators and nursing staff.

## Project Plan

SCH have set out a phased implementation of the new service. This will enable the Call Centre to be operational prior to transfers occurring from the centralised service. It is also anticipated that the new service will be operational for the transfers of critically ill children before phasing in neonatal transfers. The aim is to run transfers for critically ill children by the winter of 2009, bringing in neonatal transfers by April 2010 so that the combined service is fully operational by April 2010.

## Location of the Service

SCH are discussing potential sites for the location of the service and currently negotiating the costs of rental for accommodation. It is anticipated that an agreement on the preferred location will be made in the next few weeks. The team will be located within close proximity to the M1 and between Sheffield and Leeds.

## YAS

It has been agreed that the combined service will require 4 dedicated vehicles and a driver crew of 11 staff. YAS will provide these away from their emergency fleet. This will enable a team to leave the base as soon as a call is received and should improve response times. All vehicles will be tracked by YAS to ensure the safety of teams and enable the dispatch of transport jobs to be efficiently distributed.

## Communication

The ongoing update of this development will continue with regular information bulletins via the new project manager. The lead clinicians will meet with stakeholders to provide an update on referral pathways, operational function of the new service and developments over the coming months. It is anticipated that the Call Centre telephone number will be live from July 2009 so that referring teams can start to get used to using one contact point for information on neonatal cot availability and requests for transfer.

As soon as the new full time project manager is in post I will step down from my role to concentrate on other Children's Network developments. If in the meantime you wish to contact me for further information please email me ([michelle.milner@nhsleeds.nhs.uk](mailto:michelle.milner@nhsleeds.nhs.uk)).

**Michelle Milner, Project Manager**