



Update on Neonatal Services

Northern Neonatal Network

NHS England - Specialised Commissioning, North East and North Cumbria

January 2024

Today

- Introductions
- Overview of Neonatal Care
- 2015 Royal College review
- Update on implementation of recommendation (26 week pathway)
- Performance comparators on survival rates and outcomes for babies
- Parent engagement
- Summary and next steps

Introductions

- Dr Sundeep Harigopal, Clinical Lead of Northern Neonatal Network and Consultant Neonatologist at Newcastle Hospitals
- Julie Turner, Head of Specialised Commissioning North East and North Cumbria, NHS England
- Yasmin Sultana Khan, Service Specialist, Specialised Commissioning, North East and North Cumbria, NHS England

Overview of Neonatal Care

Northern Neonatal Network

Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU)

Local Neonatal Units (LNU)

Special Care Baby Units (SCBU)

- Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) Newcastle
- **Sunderland Royal Hospital**
- James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough

None

- NSECH, Cramlington
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead
- University Hospital of North Durham
- Darlington Memorial Hospital
- University Hospital of North Tees, Stockton
- Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle
- West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven

This is what we are here to talk about today

Update on 2015 Royal College review

- In 2015 the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) reviewed neonatal services across the region.
- Five recommendations were made and are now complete.

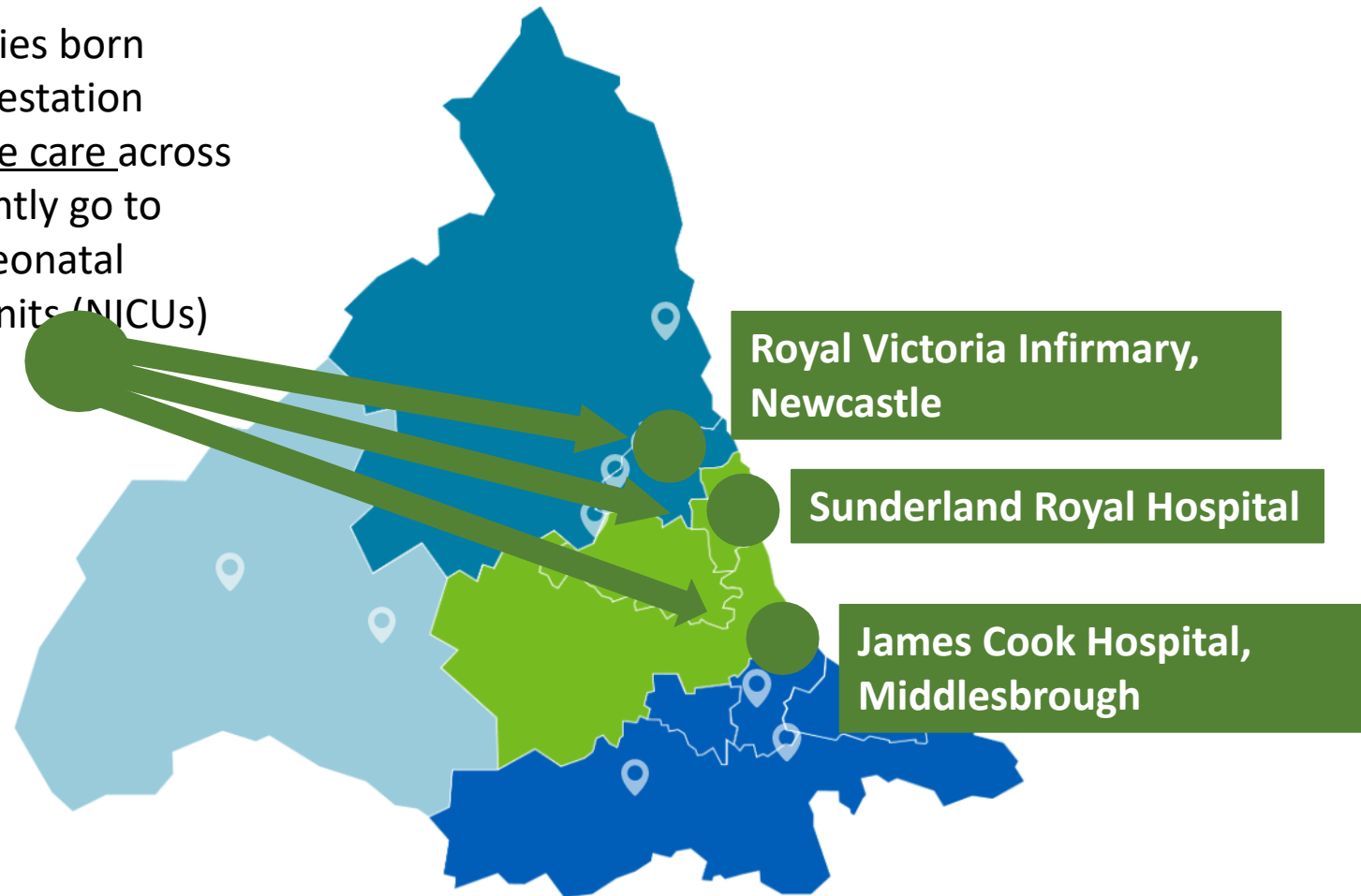
RCPCH 2015 summary of recommendations

Recommendation	Status
Re-designation of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at North Tees to a Special Care Units (SCU)	Complete
Increased capacity at South Tees to cater for the re-designation at North Tees	Complete
Development of a dedicated standalone neonatal transport service for the Northern Neonatal Network	Complete
Expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle	Complete 4 Cots increased in 2018, a further 4 cots to be mobilised by July 2023
Changes to service provision in Neonatal Intensive Care in Sunderland (part of South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT)	Complete



Pre pathway change patient flows

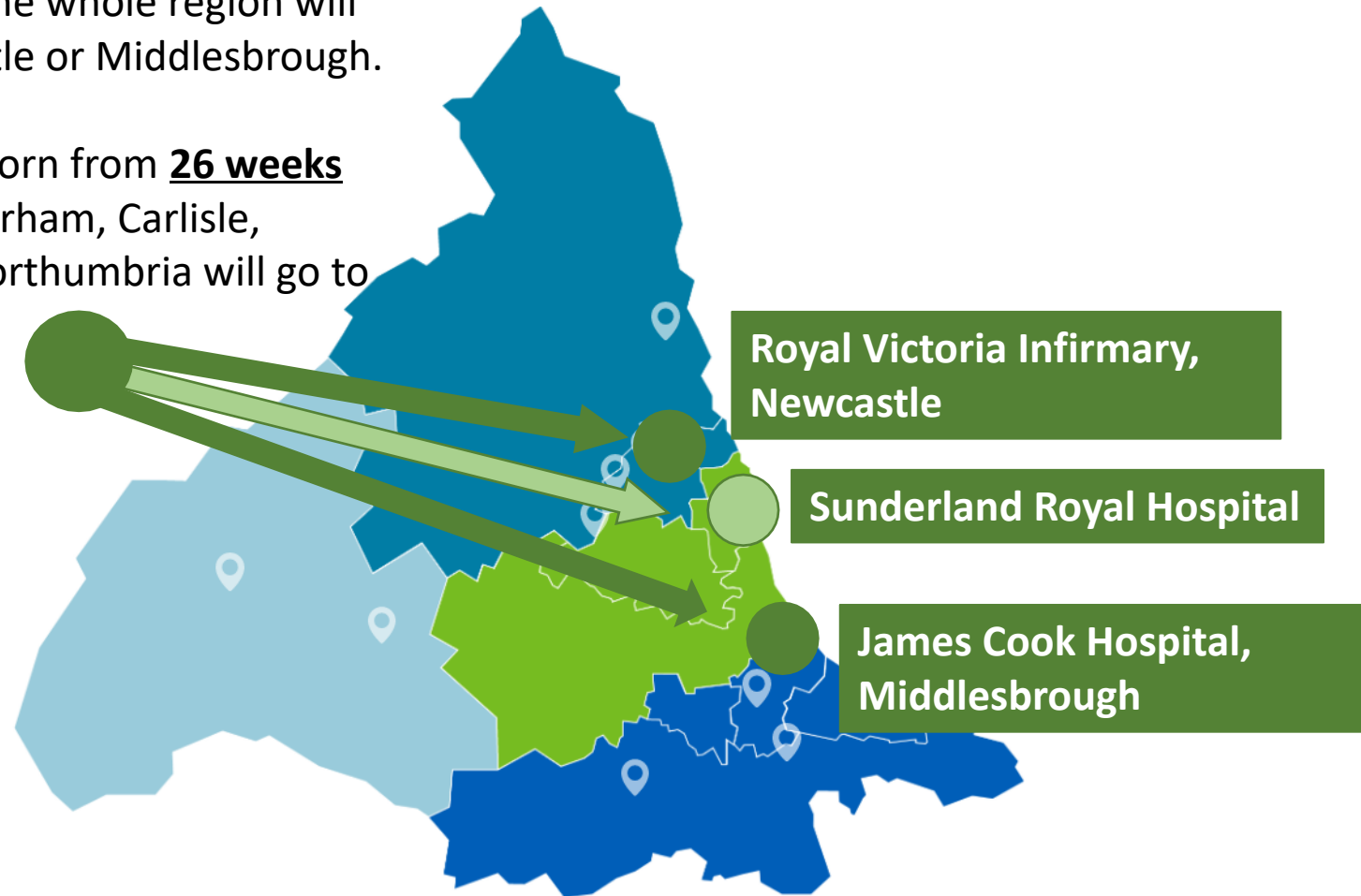
All pre-term babies born from 22 weeks gestation needing intensive care across the region currently go to one our three Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs)



Patient flow after 26 week pathway change

Pre-term babies born from **22 weeks** gestation across the whole region will still go to Newcastle or Middlesbrough.

Pre-term babies born from **26 weeks** gestation from Durham, Carlisle, Gateshead and Northumbria will go to Sunderland



Implementation

- Joint OSC meeting – 3rd July 2023
- Change implement on 1st August 2023
- Impact (1 August 2023 – 30 November 2023)
 - Zero ex-utero transfers from Sunderland
 - Four in utero transfers from Sunderland to RVI (1 delivered within 24 hours)

Parent engagement

- Review of parental experience for families transferred from Cumbrian units to NE NICU
- Feedback is taken from Northern Neonatal Network Parent Survey results

- All parents offered accommodation
- All families received financial support with meal vouchers for the duration of their stay
- All families also received financial support with parking permits for the duration of their stay
- All families who responded felt involved with decision making during their stay
- When asked if there was anything that could be done to improve the experience for families, all of these families responded – NO.
- When asked to describe what you feel could be improved, with the exception of one family, all other families responded ‘nothing’. One family described their experience ‘Everything perfect’
- One family has requested ‘more communication about what each different hospital will be like prior to transferring’

- *‘We were looked after well’*
- *‘From the first evening we arrived they informed us of everything and all the help we could receive’*
- *‘Every nurse knew about our situation, they were comforting and gave us a clear prognosis, and clarity on the situation. They were extremely compassionate, willing to go the extra mile and displayed professionalism at all times’*

Mortality (2021)

Organisation Name	Stabilised Neonatal Death Rate	Stabilised Neonatal Death Category Name
Central	1.8	Over 5% higher
East of England	1.43	5 to 15% lower
North Central & East London	1.48	5 to 15% lower
North West (Cheshire and Merseyside)	1.84	Over 5% higher
North West (Greater Manchester)	1.45	5 to 15% lower
North West (Lancashire and South Cumbria)	1.66	Within 5%
North West London	1.49	5 to 15% lower
Northern	1.67	Within 5%
South East Coast	1.5	5 to 15% lower
South London	1.77	Over 5% higher
South West	1.48	5 to 15% lower
Southern West Midlands	1.77	Over 5% higher
Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country	1.85	Over 5% higher
Thames Valley and Wessex	1.54	5 to 15% lower
Trent	1.64	Within 5%
Yorkshire & Humber	1.86	Over 5% higher
North of Scotland	1.62	Within 5%
South East Scotland & Tayside	1.67	Within 5%
West of Scotland	1.73	Within 5%
Wales	1.62	Within 5%
Northern Ireland	2.07	Over 5% higher

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births

Newcastle – 1.65

Sunderland – 1.52

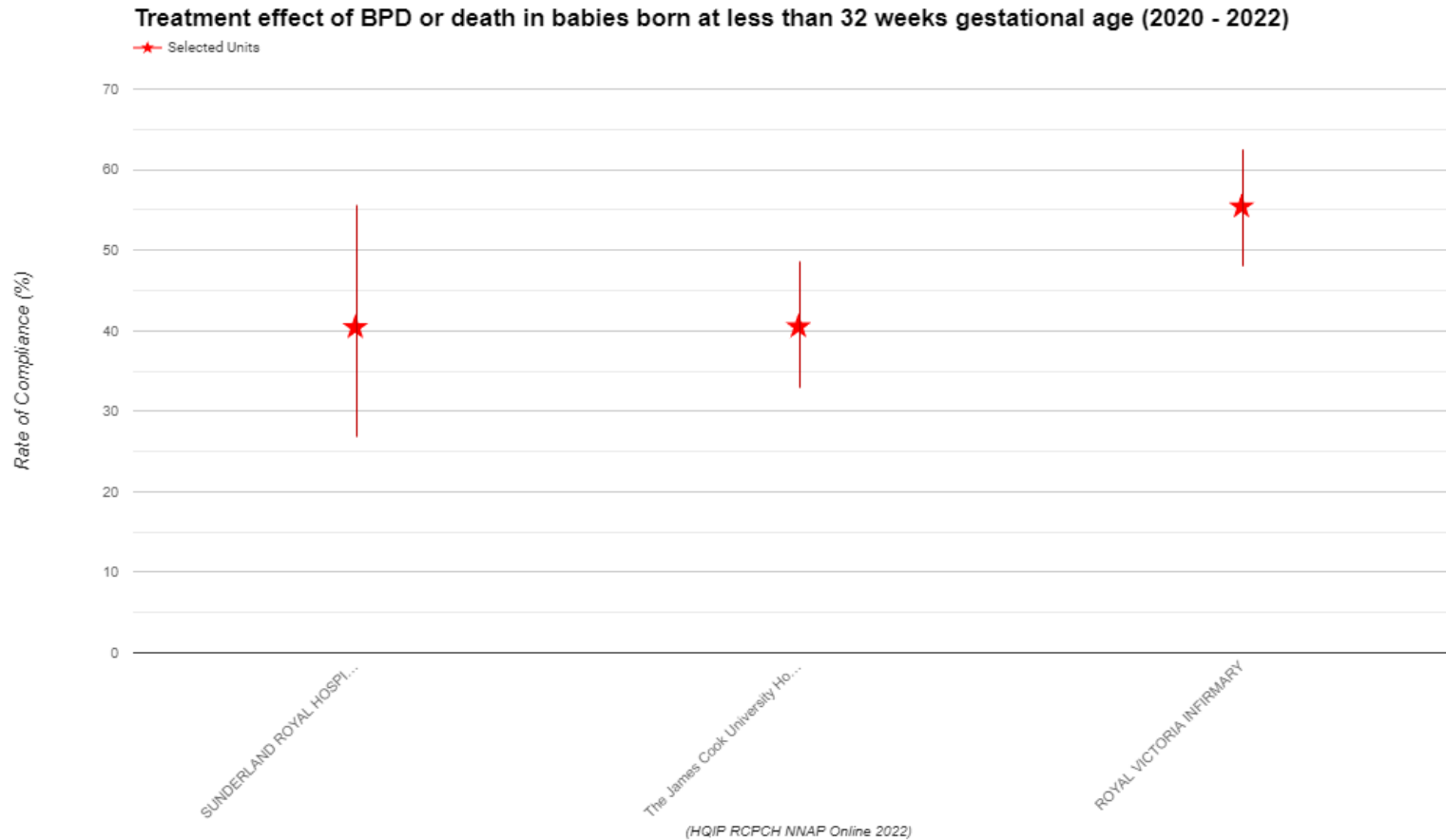
JCUH – 1.35

This reports deaths up to 28 days and does not take in account the complexity of cases
For example – Newcastle is a fetal medicine and surgical centre taking care of sicker babies

Mortality (based on place of birth)

- 2017- 2021
- RIV – $24/62= 39\%$
- JCUH- $24/58= 42\%$
- SRH – $13/22=59\%$

Morbidity – lung disease (regional)



Next steps for neonatal care

- Implementation of the national report has been published in 2019 called the NEONATAL CRITICAL REVIEW (NCCR).
- This aims to facilitate the transformation of Neonatal Critical Care services even further by 2025 by:
 - *Aligning capacity*
 - *Developing the expert neonatal workforce*
 - *Enhancing the experience of families*
- Significant work has taken place for 'developing the workforce' theme including funding for neonatal nurses, allied health professionals and neonatal quality roles.
- For the 'enhancing the experience of families' theme, The Northern Neonatal Network established the first neonatal care coordination team in the UK in April 2021.
- Working is currently being undertaken by the network towards scoping 'Aligning capacity' for implementation of NCCR. Some the work that was already been undertaken will support NCCR.

Thank you and questions