SPECIALTY TRAINING IN NEONATAL PAEDIATRICS AT NEW CROSS HOSPITAL WOLVERHAMPTON

1. THE DEPARTMENT

There are well over 4000 births each year in Wolverhampton. The neonatal unit is one of two level 3 units in the Shropshire, Staffordshire and Black Country Newborn and Maternity Network (SSBCNMN) and accepts both in-utero transfers and ex-utero transfers from around the region. The Neonatologists work closely with the Obstetric Department where four of the Consultants practice Fetal Medicine. Babies with all types of congenital anomalies are born at New Cross providing a varied case mix. There are regular meetings between the departments to discuss the management of prospective deliveries.

The neonatal unit is housed on the first floor of the Maternity Block and was refurbished in 2015. It has 7 intensive care cots, 7 high dependency cots and 16 special care cots. Transitional care will be provided for babies in a 14 bedded transitional care unit from 2016.

There are approximately 520 admissions per annum to the neonatal unit, and around 150 babies are ventilated each year. It is a busy unit, with cot occupancy of about 85%.

There are facilities available to deliver Level 3 intensive care including advanced ventilation, nitric oxide, cooling and a neonatal transport incubator. The NNU has access to an excellent ultrasound department. In addition, there is a well established neonatal community nursing team who play a key role in discharge planning and in monitoring babies’ progress (including those on domiciliary oxygen and tube feeding) after discharge.

There are good transport connections with Birmingham and the Black Country.

2. MEDICAL STAFFING

There are 6 neonatologists

- Dr. Kumararatne - special interest in respiratory and Clinical Lead for the SSBCNMN
- Dr. C. Halahakoon – Deanery neonatal simulation lead, Clinical Director for Paediatrics
- Dr. T. Pillay (85% New Cross, 15% Russell Hall Hospital) – special interest in infectious disease, Clinical Lead
- Dr. M. Sutcliffe - special interest in medical education and Lead for Clinical Effectiveness (SSBCNMN), RCPCH tutor (neonatal)
- Dr. K. Gurusamy - special interest in cardiology
- To be appointed following retirement of previous post-holder (85% New Cross, 15% Manor Hospital, Walsall) – special interests in nutrition and cardiology
There are 4 Specialist Trainees (ST4+), 1 clinical fellow and 3 Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioners on the 7 WTE middle grade rota. The ST4+ trainees attend follow-up and jaundice clinics. There are 6 Specialty Trainees (ST 1-3), 3 FY2 doctors and 2 Advanced nurse practitioners working on the tier 1 rota on a 1 in 10 shift. Both rotas are EWTD compliant.

3. FACILITIES

An on-call room, toilet, shower and doctor’s office with computer facilities are provided. In addition there is a staff rest room with basic catering facilities. A limited range of food and snacks is available out of hours from the WHSmiths shop in the Maternity building until 8pm, the A&E snack bar and Gregg’s food outlet in the main hospital. Trust employees are entitled to reduced subscription rates to a local Health Club.

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Wolverhampton Medical Institute provides comprehensive library and computer facilities. The neonatal unit has access to the Internet and uses the Badgernet database. There are 2 dedicated teaching sessions (which include journal club) on the NNU each week and also, informal teaching. In addition, trainees attend the twice-weekly paediatric departmental meetings which are held in the Maternity Building. Other educational meetings include perinatal mortality and audit meetings as well as a paediatric Grand round which takes place every 3 months. Interesting cases from the NNU, General Paediatric ward and Community are presented and discussed. Cover arrangements are in place to facilitate both senior and junior trainees attending the monthly regional study days and foundation doctors their weekly educational meetings. Trainees at all grades attend outpatient clinics and are involved in an audit project, the results of which are presented to the Department on designated days (full audit support system in place). There are opportunities for training in both echocardiography and cranial ultrasound examination.

5. RESEARCH

The NNU takes part in a number of regional and national trials e.g. the Planet-2 Trial, and there are ongoing local research projects. There are opportunities for trainees to develop/participate in research projects and they will be given the appropriate training for this.