

Welcome to Imaging Insight, the newsletter that aims to keep staff and stakeholders informed on the work of the Lancashire & South Cumbria (LSC) Diagnostic Imaging Network (DIN), and other related updates.

Network Development & Maturity

The third self-assessment against the NHSE national maturity matrix has been submitted to the Regional Diagnostics team. Great news that all of the hard work taking place across the Network has resulted in a step up to the next maturity stage; from 'Emerging' to 'Developing'.

Workforce Workstream

The Return-on-Investment business case has been finalised-it will go through a robust review/approval process through trusts, PCB and ICB governance routes for decision-making.

The Society of Radiographers Education and Career Framework has been endorsed. Implementation of the framework is being driven at National level to ensure consistency in approach for implementation.

Digital Workstream

BTH options/scoping paper in relation to RIS/PACS convergence across all 4 trusts from 2024 is progressing through the Exec decision making process and expected decision in March.

Project to implement a single instance critical alert solution across LSC is making progress with LTH planning to go live in April.

Data Workstream

Refresh of Capacity and Demand model taking place following a data refresh from trusts.

Further development of the DIN dashboard is underway including:

- Performance Improvement Plan Statistical process control charts
- Waiting list Minimum Dataset now included within Dashboard and tracked with providers.
- Local DM01 process now in place and allows early tracking of performance within PIP dashboard.

Procurement Workstream

Progression made with trust stakeholders ensuring CDC equipment is ordered with cost reductions through compliant routes via NHSSC.

Procurement working group is fully established and supported by trust stakeholders. This group is building relationships which will progress to better supplier engagement. We are also looking at aligning contracts for cost efficiencies and ensuring where we can, being a united front as the L&SC group for a more meaningful procurement process.

Clinical Reference Forum

CRF endorsement on standardisation of clinical alerts for critical, urgent or unexpected findings in support of single instance critical alerts solution.

Work commenced to review CT protocols in support of review/standardisation (where possible). Scoping exercise completed and presented to CRF



Meet the Diagnostic Imaging Network Team

Name: Tony McDonald

Title: Executive Director of Integrated Care, Partnerships and Resilience at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT) & SRO for LSC Diagnostics Programme

In October 2015 I joined ELHT as a Divisional General Manager and, prior to my current role, was Deputy Director of Operations at the Trust for 2 and a half years.

Over the last 25 years I have held a number of positions across public services, including senior roles in primary and secondary care, physical and mental health services, as well as health and social care in London, Oxfordshire and Lancashire, including joint posts spanning the NHS



As part of my current role, I'm also the Senior Responsible Officer of the Diagnostic Programme on behalf of our system. This incorporates our Diagnostic Imaging Network alongside Community Diagnostic Centres (CDC), Endoscopy Network and Healthcare Sciences Network amongst others. This also means I chair the Diagnostic Programme Board supporting Jack and the Team to deliver the priorities of the Programme, including those of the Network.

L&SC contains a fabulous array of diagnostic imaging services of which we should be so proud. I see the role of the DIN as facilitating, championing, advocating, negotiating and co-ordinating on behalf of these services. By leveraging as much investment as possible and supporting our services, we're able to deliver Network ambitions on behalf of our patients and local communities.

So far, the DIN has made a significant impact in securing investment for estate and/or equipment, as well as training and development opportunities for our staff. It has also mobilised digital platforms, developed long-term workforce plans for all staff groups, and worked closely with our Community Diagnostic Centre programme moving diagnostics closer to where our local communities live, work and play.

I believe a key opportunity for our Diagnostic Imaging Network is to utilise the power of technology to make a real and meaningful difference to the lives of our local communities. For instance, in using a single digital platform to safely store, access and share diagnostic images and clinical information, aiding clinical assessments and decision making for treatment options.

In my view, no one organisation in Lancashire and South Cumbria can respond on their own to the challenges we face as a system in terms of addressing our elective recovery, cancer backlog, diagnostic waits, urgent and emergency care pressures, or the associated financial and workforce aspects. The solutions will be found, in diagnostics as much as those other challenges, in how we work together, collaborate, and maximise system working. By taking a collaborative approach, we give ourselves the best chance of addressing these challenges whilst also ensuring we are truly responding to the needs of our local communities.



An example of this is how we support our workforce planning such that we can attract, recruit, retain and develop our colleagues within diagnostic imaging, enabling us to release and harness their full potential, offer fulfilling and varied careers which balances their working lives with their life aspirations.

Fun Fact: I'm a massive dog lover and here's our two boys – Alfie who's 18 months and Teddy who's 17 weeks. They are a cross between a Newfoundland and Standard Poodle or fondly known as Newfypoos. Though they have different colourings, they are in fact brothers sharing the same mum and dad. They are an absolute joy, get on brilliantly, are really chilled and great fun.



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Top 10 for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals (BTH) were recently acknowledged for their work on Small for Gestational Age (SGA) baby detection by the Perinatal Institute. Through their hard work and dedication following an internal process review, the team at BTH are now in the top 10 across the UK with a detection rate of almost 60% compared to the UK average of 43%. This is an incredible achievement and highlights the hard work being undertaken by the Obstetric Ultrasound Team at Blackpool.

Karl McPherson, Consultant Obstetrician, commended his colleagues at BTH commenting, "This really has been a team effort, the Sonography Team have been excellent in adapting the new scan guidance and this focus is a reflection of their hard work!". Daniel Shaw, Ultrasound Manager, added "We're working to improve the care we offer across the whole team including additional training and development opportunities. The next step for some of our sonographers includes Middle Cerebral Artery (MCA) doppler training which will further advance our care".

Foetal growth is measured periodically through a pregnancy via ultrasound and ultrasound doppler scans, these checks allow clinicians to accurately detect health concerns early on and determine whether treatment is required. In November 2020, the Perinatal Institute published the Growth Assessment Protocol (GAP) Guidance, this guidance clearly outlines national average foetal growth by gestational week; this level of information provides a baseline for the comparison of growth during pregnancy. SGA refers to a baby born with a birth weight below the 10th percentile for the gestational age compared to the GAP guidance.

It's well known that Blackpool is one of the most deprived local authorities in the England and ranked third overall according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The ONS also found a direct correlation between deprivation and life quality as well as expectancy across England with males living 9.7 years fewer and 7.9 fewer for females. These demographics combined with a higher percentage of female smokers in Blackpool (21% in Blackpool compared to 11% on average) per the ONS, have contributed to higher levels of SGA compared to other areas and highlights the need for additional care in Blackpool.

Early and accurate detection of SGA in babies allows for treatment and reduces the likelihood of pre and postnatal complications, for example, a baby's difficulty adapting to a postnatal environment.

Daniel Shaw reflected on the role that BTH's smoking cessation team carry out and the schemes in place, concluding that they play a vital role in the welfare of mothers as well as their pre/postnatal babies.

A massive well done to the team at BTH for their achievement and their deserved recognition from the Perinatal Institute!



Getting in Touch

We welcome your involvement, comments, and ideas. If you have any feedback, would like to share ideas, an issue or priority which you feel should be taken into consideration for any of the workstreams, please don't hesitate to get in touch via:

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EPT1000 – Raising Awareness and Funds

Ross Adams, LSC DIN Business Intelligence Analyst, has signed up to complete the Ectopic Pregnancy Trust 1000 (EPT1000) challenge this year in attempt to raise awareness and funds for the EPT. Ross will be running, walking, and cycling 1,000 kilometres total with the final 10 kilometres being part of the Blackpool 10km on May 14th.

Last year Ross and his Fiancée Jess lost their baby due to an ectopic pregnancy. With this being the second, they are now reliant on IVF to start their family and, in a bid to aid the process, have embarked on a healthier lifestyle. Since prioritising their health, Ross has seen a massive difference “Last year I could barely run in a straight line never mind distance, now I can regularly run 5km and feel confident for the 10km in May”.

Ross explained “We had a rough time last year but we’re feeling positive about the future. EPT really helped Jess through a tough time on both occasions and now we’re in a positive headspace, it felt right for us to raise awareness and give back to the charity. I’m overwhelmed by the messages of encouragement and support we’ve received, combined with the amazing generosity towards the EPT. So far, we’ve raised over £750 for the charity and that money will go a long way so we’re both incredibly grateful to everyone.”

1 in 80 pregnancies are ectopic and if left untreated, can result in serious health consequences. There is also no way to save a pregnancy once deemed ectopic and, in most cases, surgery is required. EPT are a charity dedicated to supporting those in need, promoting awareness, providing education and funding research.

Just Giving - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ross909

EPT - <https://ectopic.org.uk/>



Upcoming DIN Visits and Events

The Diagnostic Imaging Network (DIN) Programme Team are keen to have the opportunity to meet with colleagues across the network to share updates on the Network programme and listen to colleagues’ feedback and suggestions on the work of the collaborative. The Programme Team usually join existing trust meetings but are always happy to arrange additional meetings if helpful.

The table below outlines the current planned dates the team is scheduled to attend. Please get in touch if you would like us to join any others via Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net.

	ELHT RADIOLOGY DIRECTORATE	LTH RADIOLOGY BOARD	HEADS OF DEPARTMENT UHMB	BTH RADIOLOGY DIRECTORATE
	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
January	27-Jan	23-Jan		31-Jan
February	28-Feb	21-Feb		
March	30-Mar	22-Mar	17-Mar	
April	24-Apr	20-Apr		25-Apr
May	30-May	19-May		
June	29-Jun	19-Jun	15-Jun	
July	25-Jul	18-Jul		01-Aug
August	31-Aug			
September	29-Sep	20-Sep	14-Sep	
October	TBC	19-Oct		31-Oct
November	TBC	17-Nov		
December	TBC		15-Dec	



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