

Governance

Northern Child Health Network

The Northern Child Health Network (NCHN) is a partnership between the John Hunter Children's Hospital, Hunter New England Area Health Service and North Coast Area Health Service. The NCHN is managed by a steering committee that is representative of multidisciplinary paediatric services throughout the urban and rural sectors of the network. Communication is disseminated to area health services via their Chief Executive. Chief/Area Health Service Executive sign off is required on all steering committee decisions.

Goals

The Northern Child Health Network is one of three paediatric networks in New South Wales whose goal is to improve quality of health care for children and their families. The activities of the network are guided by the *Implementation Plan for the Guidelines for the Networking of Paediatric Services in NSW*, in the dimensions of:

- Safety
- Access
- Efficiency
- Communication
- Effectiveness & appropriateness
- Workforce development
- Consumer participation
- Governance

The priorities of the network for 2009-11 are:

1. Identify and improve services for Aboriginals and other disadvantaged groups.
2. Education, Training and Workforce development.
3. Effective partnerships with Mental Health.
4. General paediatrics models of care and associated workforce issues
5. Improved Consumer Participation including generalist health professionals working with children and Children, Young People and their Families.

NCHN Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Duties and Responsibilities/Key tasks of the Committee

- ***Clinical Services Planning***
 - To identify gaps in clinical services provision
 - To prioritise enhancement proposals to address identified gaps in clinical service provision
 - To develop strategies to promote child health service provision throughout the network
 - To develop a Network wide educational strategy prior to the implementation of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)
 - To develop a strategy to implement and evaluate CPGs
 - To monitor evidence-based outcomes from CPGs
 - To evaluate the appropriate use of resources throughout the implementation process
 - To assess the efficacy of technology as a vehicle for distribution
- ***Education***
 - To identify strategies to facilitate education and training to enhance workforce capacity
 - To identify opportunities for delivery of education and training
- ***Relationship building***
 - To establish partnerships
 - To develop strategies to integrate professional links and peer support
 - To develop strategies to address transition between rural and regional areas and the principal referral centre
 - To develop effective networks by clear network governance and implementation of local priorities
 - To develop communication and consultation strategies
- ***Performance***
 - To monitor implementation of enhancement proposals
 - To facilitate input from both network and community partners
 - To develop, review and implement clinical guidelines in accordance with the Network's principles.

Composition of Steering Committee

North Coast Area Health Service:

AHS Executive member
AHS Planner
One Aboriginal Health member
One AHS Paediatric Medical officer
One AHS Allied health representative
One Child Protection representative

Hunter New England Area Health Service:

AHS Executive member
AHS Planner
One Aboriginal member
One AHS Paediatric Medical officer
One AHS Allied health representative
One Child Protection representative

John Hunter Children's Hospital:

One Executive member
One Clinical representative

Child & youth mental health:

One representative

General Practitioners:

One representative

Consumers:

One representative

Kaleidoscope

Area Director – ex-officio (Network Convenor)

Northern Child Health Network:

Co-ordinator - ex-officio
Executive sponsor – ex-officio
Resource Manager - ex-officio
Network CNCs – ex-officio

Note: *Representation must be balanced between acute, community, metropolitan and rural partners*

Terms of Office and method of appointment

All members will be selected by the Area Health Service they represent, except the Area Director of Kaleidoscope (Convenor), Executive sponsor, Network Coordinator, Resource Manager and Network CNCs who are appointed ex-officio.

Meeting Agenda

An agenda will be prepared for each meeting and sent to members by e-mail at least one week before the meeting.

The meeting agenda will generally follow the same format, including:

- Present/Apologies
- Receipt and adoption of previous meeting minutes
- Business arising (if not otherwise on the agenda)
- Report on activities and issues
- Papers for information and noting
- Monitoring of implementation of strategic plan
- General business
- Close of meeting
- Date, time and venue of next meeting

A subcommittee will be formed in each of the two area health services within the Northern Child Health Network and terms of reference developed.

Reviewed: Dec 2009