



June 2012

Inside this issue:

- [Cardiac](#) 2
- [Prescribing](#) 3
- [Stroke](#) 4
- [Financial implications](#) 5
- [Decisions required](#) 5
- [Events](#) 6
- [Contact](#) 6

Newsletter roundup

- [Stroke Improvement Programme news \(3rd July\)](#)
- [Heart Improvement Programme news \(June\)](#)
- [National Heart Forum e-Briefing \(11th July\)](#)
- [NHF eResearch briefing archive](#)
- [Cardiovascular News International](#)
- [British Heart Foundation news](#)
- [Atrial Fibrillation Alliance \(June\)](#)

South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network Highlight report - June 2012

Senior responsible officer - Lucy Grothier, Director, SLCSN
Report through 30th June 2012

Next steps for the London Cardiovascular Project

The London Cardiovascular (LCV) Project has drawn to a close. A new legacy document summarises the changes to cardiovascular care in the capital and provides a view towards future focus areas for improvement in the next phase. This will soon be available through [our website](#).

The new London Cardiovascular Clinical Leadership Advisory Group (CLAG) has been established and will be the driving force behind the momentum of change from the LCV Project. The CLAG will continue to evolve cardiovascular services, providing vital clinical input.

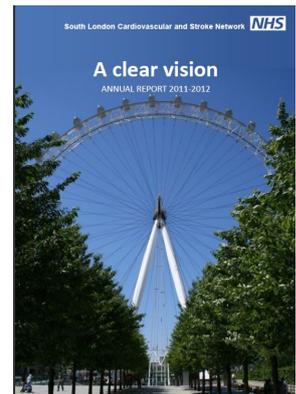
The inaugural meeting of the CLAG was held on 29th June. In the future, the CLAG will deliberate strategic clinical issues and make recommendations based on clinical best practice for the future sustainability of the LCV Project, plus implementation of new models of cardiovascular delivery by CCGs and providers.



SLCSN annual report released

This year's annual report, [A clear vision](#), records the changeable environment of 2011/12, structurally and politically, and how we held a steadfast, clear view amidst the transition: continuous improvement in the quality of cardiovascular care for our patients.

Download the SLCSN annual report, [A clear vision](#).

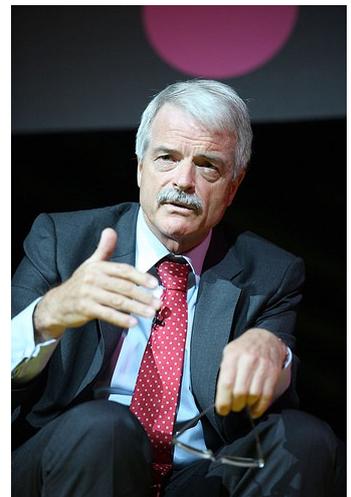


Defining the future of clinical networks

At the 2012 NHS Confederation conference held in Manchester 20-22 June, Lucy Grothier, Director of the South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network (SLCSN), asked Professor Malcolm Grant, Chair of the NHS Commissioning Board, for his view on the future of clinical networks.

In a panel session, Building the new system, key leaders discussed the infrastructure within the new NHS, including the creation of hundreds of new clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), health and wellbeing boards, the NHS Commissioning Board and its hosting of clinical networks and senates and the new roles of the CQC and Monitor. Through their introductions, each panelist noted the vital importance of integration and collaboration to the success of the healthcare system.

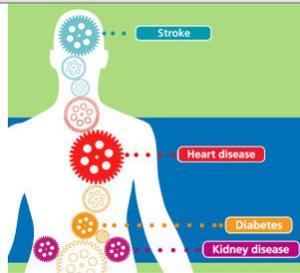
Lucy took the opportunity during the Q&A to request clarity on the future of clinical networks, as they are an example of working together already. Professor Grant responded saying, "I don't think we see anything that would disturb the operation of existing networks but to use them as a model for what we do for the future."



Prof Malcolm Grant, Chair, NHS Commissioning Board

Watch the archived videos from the [NHS Confederation conference site](#).

Photo courtesy of flickr.com/nhsconfederation



NHS Health Check event

The 14th NHS Health Check learning event will be held on 17th July.

Please register online through the [latest NHS ebulletin](#).

Learn more about the [SLCSN Prevention work stream](#), through the Network website.

Commissioning guide: Primary prevention of CVD

NICE has produced a guide to support commissioners of services that contribute to population-wide, community-level and individual approaches to cardiovascular disease prevention.

The guide includes sections on assessing risk, behaviour change and lifestyle interventions, as well as medical interventions. There are also service models for CQUIN and QIPP (Commissioning for Quality and Innovation and Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) requirements.

Download [Services for the prevention of CVD](#)

ICD deactivation policy writing group

The South London ICD deactivation policy writing group met 1st June and developed a draft policy document.

Please email [Richard Whitfield](#) for further information.

Arrhythmia round table

The 20th June meeting of the SLCSN Arrhythmia Roundtable consisted of cardiologists, arrhythmia nurse specialists, physiologists and managers.

The discussions included the London Cardiovascular Project, the use of new oral anticoagulants, community cardiology, device implant rates and the heart rhythm devices audit.

A pilot focused on syncope with Dr Nick Gall from King's will be investigated.

Please email [Richard Whitfield](#) for further information.

Scoping stroke prevention

In 2011, we worked with [GPs in Sutton and Merton to optimise treatment of AF](#).

To spread the learning from this project and to save the 74 lives and more than £95,000 identified in South London, we must first understand the current position of AF and stroke prevention across the region.

A proforma has been circulated to GP cardiovascular disease (CVD) leads and borough team AF leads to describe current work and determine what assistance might be required.

Thus far, all boroughs save three have returned the information.



CVD Outcomes Strategy

In response to Andrew Lansley's announcement in December 2011 for the creation of a new strategy to tackle the UK's burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD), the Department of Health is leading the development of a new CVD Outcomes Strategy, to be published in 2013. It is being developed in collaboration with NHS health and social care staff, charities, and patients and carers with experience of heart, stroke, diabetes or kidney disease.

Meetings have taken place up and down the country to gather opinions to shape the priorities of the strategy. These events have been coordinated by NHS Improvement with the support of the cardiovascular networks. Patient and carer views are being collated through regional meetings this month by telling us what works -- or doesn't -- in the current system and why.

The SLCSN has been further involved in this work through participation in several All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings. Discussion at these meetings focuses on potential priorities for the strategy, such as CVD prevention, awareness, risk assessment and early diagnosis and treatment.

Outputs from the events are available through the [CVD Outcomes Strategy page](#) of the NHS Improvement website.

CVD Outcomes Strategy

Shaping the future of cardiovascular disease for patients, healthcare professionals and the UK.

New oral anticoagulants

The Cardiovascular Prescribing Group (CPF) met 21st June to update the SLCSN new oral anticoagulants (NOACs) prescribing guidance in line with recent NICE health technology appraisal guidance for [dabigatran](#) and [rivaroxaban](#). Apixaban is due February 2013.

A guideline for prescribing dabigatran has been developed and will be circulated in next month's highlight report. Work is also underway to draft frequently asked questions and bleeding guidance. A new web page is now available with updates on our progress with these drugs, slcsn.nhs.uk/noacs.html.

To join the CPF, please contact [Sara Nelson](#). We welcome CCG representatives.

Recent NICE guidance / national reports

The next Industry Working Group meeting is scheduled for 24th July.

Endoscopic saphenous vein harvest for coronary artery bypass grafting (IPG 343) -

Endoscopic vein harvest is a minimally invasive procedure undertaken through keyhole surgery to collect a section of vein usually from the leg to act as a graft for the heart operation.

Percutaneous occlusion of the left atrial appendage in non-valvular atrial fibrillation for the prevention of thromboembolism (IPG 349) - In this procedure, a special device is inserted that blocks the mouth of the left atrial appendage in order to prevent migration of any blood clots.

Percutaneous mitral valve annuloplasty (IPG 352) - In this procedure, a catheter is inserted into a large vein in the groin or neck and passed through to the heart. A device is placed into a large vein that sits next to the mitral valve to constrict the valve, with the aim of making it close properly.

Percutaneous laser coronary angioplasty (IPG 378) - In this technique, a catheter connected to a laser is inserted through the leg and into the circulation. It is moved to the site of the blockage and the laser is then used to burn away the fatty deposits. This procedure may be done on its own or with other techniques to help remove the deposits and/or keep the blood vessel open.

Off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting (IPG 377) - Coronary artery bypass grafting aims to improve the flow of blood to the heart muscle. The surgeon uses a healthy blood vessel, usually taken from the chest or the leg, and attaches it on the heart muscle so that blood can get round ('bypass') the affected part of the coronary artery.

Transcatheter endovascular closure of perimembranous ventricular septal defect (IPG 336)

- Ventricular septal defect (sometimes shortened to VSD) is one or more holes in the partition called the septum that separates the left and right ventricles, which are the two lower chambers of the heart.

New report on cardiac surgery

The [2011/12 National Audit for Adult Cardiac Surgery Annual Report](#) has been published by the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR). The audit includes detailed results of cardiac surgery operations in England and Wales between 2008-11.

Heart failure

- The Network recommends that all boroughs review their services and implement the [SLCSN heart failure commissioning guide](#).
- The 28th June heart failure work stream meeting focused on developing an algorithm for GPs to diagnose heart failure and the importance of timely access to appropriate heart failure care. GP education, particularly early and accurate diagnosis, will be a future priority. Please contact [Alison Basa](#) for further details.

Revascularisation

The next South London revascularisation work stream meeting will be held on Thursday, 13th September. The meeting will focus on chest pain and community cardiology.

To join the group, please contact [Sara Nelson](#).

Cardiac rehabilitation

A new online resource **Quality, innovation and value in cardiac rehabilitation: commissioning for improvement** is now available online.

Learn more under the [Commissioning](#) section on the next page.



New stroke patient leaflet

When you have a stroke in London is a new leaflet from the South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network which is aimed at providing information to patients/ carers/family when a patient is first admitted onto a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit in South London.

The leaflet includes useful information about:

- What is a stroke?
- When a stroke happens
- Your first few days in hospital
- Useful contacts

The new leaflet has been printed and is in use in HASUs in the region. It is [available for download](#) on our website.



Rehabilitation meeting

Next month's South London stroke rehabilitation meeting will focus on psychological support following a stroke.

Sarah Gillam, national lead from the Stroke Improvement Programme, will be joining the discussion.

SEL acute work stream meeting

Changes to the vascular pathway were discussed at the recent South East London (SEL) acute stroke work stream meeting.

Representatives from Lewisham led a discussion on the impact to stroke units following the implementation of the London stroke model. They noted how, due to the successes in reducing mortality through the model more patients are requiring longer stays on the stroke units.

Stroke performance report

The stroke exception reports were presented to the Pan-London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network Board this month.

This report aims to highlight areas of performance that are not meeting the required standards, and should be viewed in the context of the full report on the London Stroke System. The London Stroke System report is a quarterly scorecard which incorporates national Accelerating Stroke Improvement (ASI) metrics, London key performance indicators and both London tariff and NICE standards.

Summary of improved activity

Princess Royal University Hospital

- Access to scan within 24 hours (ASI 4b) and swallow test (HASU 11) - Amber (previously red for Q1 through Q3)
- Physiotherapy assessment within 72 hours of admission (SU4) and weekly nutritional screening (SU 7) - Amber (previously red in Q3)

King's College Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital

- Joint care planning (ASI 7) - Both reporting high percentage; may be in part due to amendments to the metric

St George's Hospital (SGH)

- Eligible patients receiving thrombolysis within three hours of symptom onset (HASU 7) - Significant improvement (from 70.6% to 84.2%)

Croydon University Hospital (CUH)

- Patients weighted within three days of admission (SU 6) - Amber (previously red in Q3)

CUH, SGH (HASU and SU) and Kingston Hospital

- Joint care planning (ASI 7) - All reporting high percentage; may be in part due to amendments to the metric

ESD services

The network continues to work with boroughs where early supported discharge (ESD) services have not been commissioned to make a case for such services.

Bromley commissioners have agreed the funding for their ESD service.

Commissioning and contract implications

CARDIAC

New oral anticoagulants

Implementation of the new oral anticoagulant drugs will create a significant cost pressure for organisations. The Network is looking at gaining consensus for the potential for a phased implementation of the guidance (*see [Prescribing](#) section*)

Expected date: June/July

STROKE

HASU and SU

The HASU at PRUH and SUs at QEH and PRUH are still subject to the accreditation process.

All other units are subject to annual performance monitoring for 2012/13; plans are still being finalised by the London Clinical Advisory Group.

Acute and community service specification

The following service specifications have been agreed:

- [Community rehab and ESD](#)
- [Acute](#)

LCVP

No new issues

Commissioning for improvement: cardiac rehabilitation services

A new online resource [Quality, innovation and value in cardiac rehabilitation: commissioning for improvement](#) is now available.

The SLCSN, along with NHS Improvement (NHSI), have been working to improve access to and uptake of cardiac rehabilitation services through the implementation of the Department of Health's Commissioning Pack for Cardiac Rehabilitation.

This NHSI publication captures the key learning from this and related work aimed at driving quality and efficiency in cardiac rehabilitation.

Featuring the Network's pilots in Kingston and Wandsworth, the interactive document consists of videos of Alison Basa, SLCSN Project Manager, discussing local implementation of the DH pack, project outcomes and measures for improvement.

View [Quality, innovation and value in cardiac rehabilitation: commissioning for improvement](#) online.



Decisions required

Cardiac

Approval for SLCSN access to ePACT data awaited from all boroughs except Croydon

Stroke

No decision required

Vascular

Formal confirmation of plans including timescales for moves and date for completion of the centralisation of vascular services

Additional documents

- [Key risks/issues and mitigating actions](#) - A full risk log and mitigating actions is available on request.
- [Stroke performance update](#)
- Acute Stroke Services Report (Quarter 4 performance) for [South East London](#) and [South West London](#)
- [London Cardiovascular Project progress matrix](#)

Dates for your diary

19 July - SLCSN South London stroke rehabilitation work stream meeting

24 July - SLCSN Industry Working Group meeting

13 September - SLCSN Revascularisation/chest pain meeting

For details, please contact the Network on 020 8812 5950 or info@slcsn.nhs.uk.

Professional development and resources

British Hypertension Society annual scientific meeting 2012 | 10-12 September, Cambridge | ([Details](#))

The changing face of stroke care | 19 September, Birmingham | ([Details](#))

HRUK Heart Rhythm Congress 2012 | 23-26 September, Birmingham | ([Details](#))

Management of hypertension in primary care | 11-14 February 2013, Birmingham | ([Details](#))

Management of heart failure in primary care | 26 February - 1 March 2013, Birmingham | ([Details](#))

British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation - 2012 course list | Note: group discounts are available. ([Details](#))

Et.al Training lets you find trainers and book onto their existing events, or register to receive future information for events, by either your professional or geographical area. Examples of events include [Motivational interviewing](#) and [Chronic kidney disease](#). ([Details](#))

A new website, **Cardiology Course Guide** has been set up offering links to national and international CPD/CME cardiology courses organised by hospital consultants, academic institutions, established medical companies and expert individuals. ([Details](#))



ESC Congress 2012 Munich

The European Society of Cardiology presents, **ESC Congress 2012**, to be held 25th-29th August in Munich Germany.

[Learn more and register online.](#)

London Cardiovascular Project update (*Final work stream summaries*)

Cardiac surgery

Network performance for Q4 2011/12 was presented in June to the Pan London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network Board (PLCSNB). Teams continue to work with local providers to sustain and improve data collection and performance delivery.

The Network is finalising a new training package for IHT users to ensure good governance and information transfer is maintained for *business as usual*. Plans are in place to upgrade the IHT system in 2012/13 across London.

NSTEACS

Network performance for Q4 was presented to the June PLCSNB. We are now working with local providers to improve performance and data collection.

Arrhythmia

Local units across South London have been fully assessed and 24/7 emergency referral processes have been agreed.

Mitral valve surgery

The Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons CCAD database mitral valve audit has been agreed at local level. Plans are in place to measure and analyse KPIs on a bi-annual basis. The first performance report will be shared in autumn.

Vascular

South West

A director-led vascular board will in autumn review progress and support governance and delivery across the network.

South East

King's Health Partners (KHP) is working collaboratively to support the centralisation of inpatient services to the St Thomas' site. The team will undergo Phase I of the centralisation in July. The SLCSN will continue to support KHP through delivery, referring any delivery issues to the cluster as required.

New technologies

The New technologies work stream will meet this summer to sign off the assessment commissioning process.

South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network

SRO:	Lucy Grothier, Director
Circulation:	NHS South East London and NHS South West London
Report for period:	1st-30th June 2012
Completed by:	Sara Nelson