

Our Network vision is;

“to provide high quality, equitable care for congenital heart disease patients wherever they live within our region; provided closer to home when possible, ensuring seamless transition between fetal, paediatric and adult services and providing a holistic approach to care”

We will achieve this by defining clear goals and objectives aligned to our vision and mission. Our six key objectives are:

1. Increase patient and stakeholder engagement to improve inclusivity and listening.
2. Ensure equitable and lifelong access to holistic services for all CHD patients.
3. Provide strategic direction for high-quality care throughout the CHD network.
4. Promote inclusive and innovative CHD research initiatives.
5. Enhance “global” collaboration to increase the CHD network's impact.
6. Support ongoing workforce education and training, increasing general awareness.

Priority	Objective	Expected Benefit	Potential Implications
Workforce	Targeted training programme for sonographers. Establish a PEC training programme. Physiologist network subgroup and regional training programme.	Identify workforce gaps across the region. Identify staff development opportunities. Create innovative ways for working including nurse- and physiologist-led clinics.	Support from Trusts, NHSE, ICB and Health Education England National CHD networks
Governance	Recruit to ACHD network clinical lead position. Establish ACHD clinical subgroup. PPV representation on board. Establish network clinical governance process.	Clarity around network clinical governance. Clear pathway and guideline review programme. Ensure board membership is representative & diverse.	Support from provider clinical teams, input from paediatric and adult network clinical leads
Understanding CHD Services	Develop a regional CHD strategy. Create regional dashboard and regular reporting.	Monitor capacity and demand across the region. Highlight pressure points across the system. Develop mitigation and escalation protocols.	Provider organisations, information governance, IT, NHSE
Service development	Develop a regional CHD strategy. Service reviews and action plans for regional providers. Newcastle ACHD-HF service development. Regional transition services – initial scoping.	Improve patient access/experience. Maximise resources by improving access to services and better use of the regional workforce, including non-medical workforce. Ensure our work and service development is codesigned and lead by service users.	Provider organisations PPV group
Health Inequalities	Monitor DNA/WNB appointments. Monitor waiting times across NENC. Identify barriers to access to services. Chuf psychology scoping and awareness project.	Provide solutions to address inequalities in access. Identify which areas would benefit most from outreach services. Improve patient experience and efficiency by reducing DNAs/WNB and LTFU.	Provider organisations, IT, primary care organisations
Reducing Variation	Improve outreach support. Review existing pathways. Understand the barriers to accessing healthcare for adult patients.	Harmonisation of pathways across the network. Improving access to services by better use of the regional workforce, including non-medical workforce.	Provider organisations