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Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals
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South of England Congenital Heart Network

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The Network is a joint collaboration between
Oxford and Southampton hospitals.

Clinical teams are working together
to provide excellent patient care
for children with congenital heart disease.

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What is the Network?

Two of England's leading teaching hospitals working together to merge their two tertiary congenital heart units in the context of the *Safe and Sustainable* principles. This is the first time this has been done.

It brings together

- one of the country's leading centres for children's heart surgery
- an outstanding congenital cardiology centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital
- the expertise and facilities – on both sites - to provide a wide range of care and treatment for patients with congenital heart problems, including their other complex needs, from before birth through to adulthood

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This Network has been working well for patients and clinical teams

- The Oxford interventional team have been working in Southampton - enabling Oxford patients to experience continuity of care that would otherwise not have been possible
- Collaborative rather than competitive working relationships exist, based on mutual respect and trust, resulting in the best possible care for patients and families

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What does the Network deliver for patients?

Excellent quality care

- Southampton is the second highest performing surgical centre in the country according to *Safe and Sustainable's* own assessment

Strong governance

- Led by the surgical centre with regular joint meetings monitoring and auditing quality and outcomes

A seamless network of care for patients with complex needs

- The full range of specialist services for foetuses, children and adults, is available in Southampton and Oxford – this is unusual

A world-class congenital cardiac service as close as possible to home

- This Network is committed to maintaining as much clinical care as possible close to people's homes.

Patients who require lifelong care develop close relationships with their clinical teams and the Network will preserve the trust and confidence those relationships have fostered.

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Features of the network

- A single team has been created within the South of England Congenital Heart Network and working contractual agreements are in place between the two organisations
- Strong clinical governance is in place which is led by the surgical centre but has the full support and involvement of all clinicians

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- The best hospital environment for children's heart surgery and interventions is one in which fetomaternal, other paediatric medical and surgical tertiary services and adult cardiac services are situated
- No centre in England can achieve this better than Oxford and Southampton

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The network currently includes

- Five congenital heart surgeons
- Nine consultant paediatric cardiologists
- One associate specialist
- Six cardiac liaison nurse specialists
- Fetal cardiac networks based on both sites
- Specialist fetal medicine units on both sites
- Regional neonatal intensive care units on both sites
- Paediatric Intensive Care Units on both sites
- Complete range of children's services on both sites (purpose built children's hospital in Oxford)
- Major trauma centres on both sites
- Complete range of adult congenital cardiac staff and facilities on both sites

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Size of the network

- 23 district hospitals stretching as far north as Northamptonshire and as far south west as Cornwall and the Channel Islands
- In terms of surgical numbers, Southampton is now within easy reach of the 400 cases required by *Safe and Sustainable* and is currently undertaking 350 cases per year
- Over 15,000 paediatric cardiology outpatient appointments take place each year
- Children – and their families – only need to travel to Southampton for catheterisation or surgery. The network is committed to preserving access to clinics locally.



Both organisations would like to assure families and members of the JCPCT that they consider this network to be a robust, viable and sustainable model of care that can provide an excellent service to patients in the this wide geographical area

- The hospital Trusts are supporting this at the highest level
- The clinical teams are already working together
- Patients are already seeing the benefit
- Both hospitals are committed to expanding the opportunities for more joint working and more provision of care in Oxford to the benefit of patients and the referring district general hospitals.

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The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust supports **Option B** – *the only option which includes Southampton* – because the South of England Congenital Heart Network offers the best opportunity for Oxford patients to retain as much local access to services as possible

