ST7-8 sub-specialty congenital cardiac surgery

This is a joint bid with the North West region to offer a 2 year “Northern” congenital cardiac training programme across 2 sites – Alder Hey, Liverpool and the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. It would offer 1 year of sub-specialty training in each hospital, with the first year in Liverpool and the second in Newcastle. There are excellent training opportunities on both sites, and both centres have a track record of successfully training several UK paediatric surgeons over the past 5 years.

Alder Hey is a high volume centre (> 400 paediatric cases/year, 100 Neonates/year) performing a whole range of procedures including: Norwood Programme, Hybrid Procedures, ccTGA, Tracheal and Airway surgery, Chest wall malformations and an ECMO programme (Cardiac, Respiratory and ECPR).

The Freeman Hospital provides experience in the whole spectrum of congenital cardiac surgery from neo-natal to adult congenital heart disease. Freeman is one of the two nationally designated centres for mechanical circulatory assist as a bridge to transplantation and cardiopulmonary transplantation. It also uniquely undertakes cardio-pulmonary transplantation for complex adult congenital heart disease. The Freeman also has an international reputation for surgical management of advanced heart failure. In addition, paediatric thoracic surgery is performed, including complex tracheal reconstruction.

Alder Hey, Liverpool – Year 1

Alder Hey have international training links with the US, Australia and Europe. Trainees have opportunities to participate in Surgical “Medical Missions“ overseas. Alder Hey can offer an individually tailored “hybrid curriculum based-apprenticeship” training experience as well as a sub-procedure training skills approach. Trainees will also be offered a “surgical decision making” active training during formal or ad-hoc MDTs and a pre-consultancy appointment “fine tuning” experience.

The rota is EWTD compliant, 1:4 and trainees have access to dedicated office space with individual desks, PCs, on call rest room. For handovers, there are printed handover forms and protocols to and from on call team as well as from Theatre to PICU/ward. There is compulsory involvement in double consent process.

Freeman Hospital, Newcastle – Year 2

The congenital training at the Freeman Hospital is comprehensive with daily exposure to operative procedures where the trainers are dedicated to providing hands on experience. There is also didactic teaching every week. The trainee is actively involved in one paediatric one adult congenital multi-disciplinary weekly meeting. There is also participation in a weekly Journal Club.

The trainee has an open ended on call commitment with exposure to urgent surgical operations. In addition the trainee is first on call for mechanical circulatory support often undertaking cannulations both for ECMO and ventricular assist devices. There is also full exposure to cardiopulmonary transplantation.