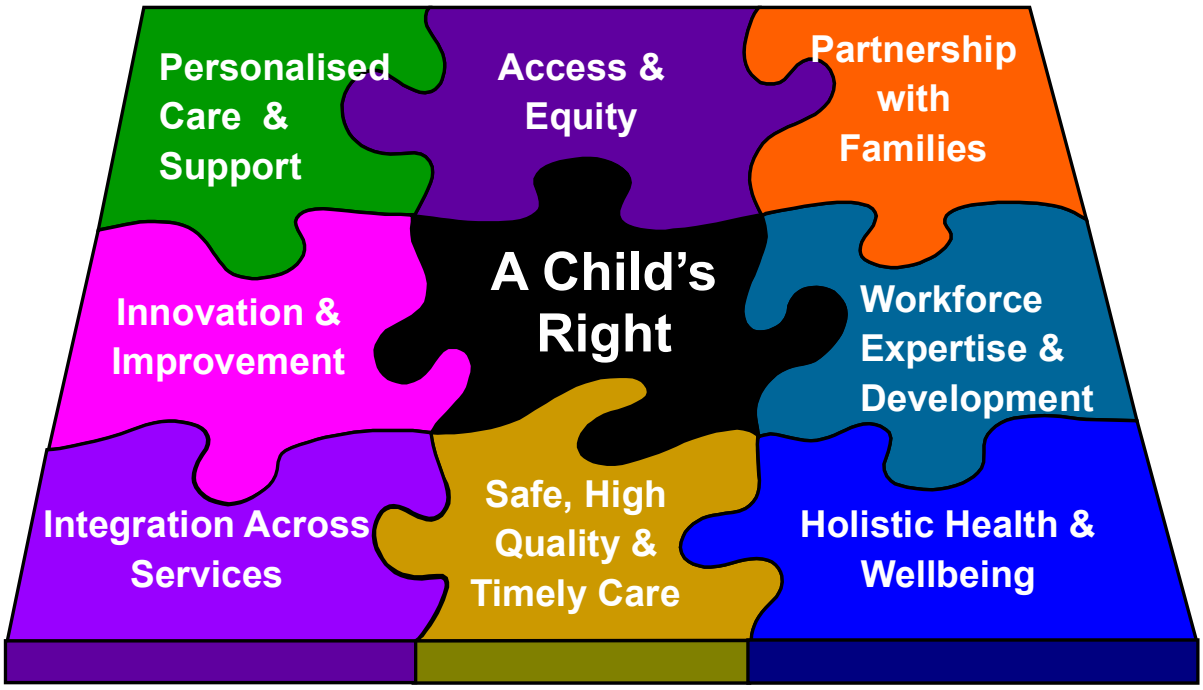
Association of British Paediatric Nurses position statement
Surgical Hubs Paediatric Criteria



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This document has been developed in collaboration with members and contains information to assist members in the development of services for children and young people across the UK.

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Introduction

This position statement sets out the Association of British Paediatric Nurses standards for surgical hubs providing a service for children and young people.

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses believes

- Children and young people should be cared for and receive treatment in the best place to meet their specific needs. This may not necessarily be within a separate facility focused on elective surgery provision but within dedicated children's wards and departments, including within a children's specific day surgery unit even if a dedicated theatre is not co-located.
- The best and most appropriate facility for an individual child or young person should be agreed by the multi-disciplinary team during pre-admission assessment processes, in which each individual professional perspective is taken into account and valued.
- Children and young people have a right to be cared for by nurses who have the right education, training, knowledge and skills to meet their needs[1,2]

Nurse staffing for wards, departments and facilities in which children and young people receive care

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses workforce standards highlight that the minimum requirement is for **2 registered children's nurses** to be on duty at all times in areas where children and young people receive care and intervention, one of whom should be a Band 6 experienced registered children's nurse[3,4,5].

It is recognised that some areas may have difficulty in achieving this minimum standard.

[1] See https://www.abpn-uk.com/uploads/4/3/1/2/43121793/association_of_british_paediatric_nurses_position_statement_on_children_and_young_peoples_rights.pdf
[2] See https://www.abpn-uk.com/uploads/4/3/1/2/43121793/association_of_british_paediatric_nurses_position_statement_on_childrens_nurse_education.pdf
[3] See https://www.abpn-uk.com/uploads/4/3/1/2/43121793/standards_for_safe_staffing_in_children_and_young_peoples_wards_and_departments.pdf
[4] See https://www.abpn-uk.com/uploads/4/3/1/2/43121793/standards_for_safe_staffing_in_outpatient_departments_day_care_and_day_surgery_for_children_and_young_people.pdf
[5] See https://www.abpn-uk.com/uploads/4/3/1/2/43121793/standards_for_safe_staffing_for_children_and_young_people_in_the_independent_and_private_sector_services_and_children%E2%80%99s_hospices.pdf

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses recommends the development of a workforce strategy to achieve the minimum standard

In the short term where the minimum standard is not achievable the Association of British Paediatric Nurses believes that there **must be a minimum of one registered children's nurse** [6] on each shift where children and young people's lists are scheduled.

Additionally, there needs to be clear escalation policies and processes in place where the above minimum is potentially not able to be achieved. Networks must have clear plans in place to ensure safe staffing to meet the needs of children and young people wherever they receive care taking into account case mix, acuity, activity levels and local service configuration which could for example establish joint workforce approaches, including staff rotations between children's services and other facilities in which children and young people receive care and interventions. A children's nurse bank could also be in place across the network to complement full-time staff so there is cover available for increased activity and acuity, sickness, maternity leave, training and annual leave.

Non-registered children's nurses involved in the care of children and young people must complete specific education and training to acquire knowledge, skill and competency in respect of

- Children and young people's rights, parental responsibility, consent, Fraser Guidelines and Gillick Competence
- Effective communication with children and young people of different ages, and their parents/carers
- Child and family centred care
- Child development and neurodevelopment
- Safeguarding to level 3 as defined by the Intercollegiate Framework
- Measurement, interpretation and recording of vital signs in children and young people, including the use of PEWS chart and recognition of a sick child
- Basic paediatric airway and circulatory management skills
- Pain assessment and management
- Assessment of fluid balance and management, including the administration of intravenous infusions
- The administration of analgesia, anti-emetics and other drugs by all routes, as well as the use of all associated equipment according to local protocols

[6] This individual should be an Agenda for Change Band 6 experienced registered children's nurse able to support, supervise and advise on the care and interventions provided by non-registered children's nurses. The registered children's nurse must have prior children's surgical experience and demonstrable knowledge, skills and competence in the care of children and young people undergoing surgery, including pre-admission assessment and safe discharge. Non-registered children's nurses must also receive specific education and training as required to be able to meet the needs of children and young people.

- Play and pre-procedural preparation
- Discharge safety netting advice

Children's nurse educator engagement across the network should be in place to achieve the above, along with frequent updates to ensure retention of knowledge, skills and competencies. The Association of British Paediatric Nurses recommends this should be at least annually or more frequently dependent upon the specific knowledge, skill or competency.

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses also recognises that high-quality care for children and young people depends upon the contribution of the wider children's workforce. Surgical hubs should have access to appropriately trained professionals, including play specialists, Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs), healthcare support workers and other members of the multidisciplinary team who possess the knowledge, skills and competencies required to support children, young people and their families. This expertise may be provided through local teams, network arrangements, outreach models or shared workforce approaches, provided there are clear governance arrangements and children receive developmentally appropriate, child and family-centred care throughout their surgical pathway.

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