

**Neonatal synopsis in preparation for the business case**  
**March 2016**

**Background**

The Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is the largest local neonatal unit (LNU) in Cheshire and Merseyside. There are 3 categories of Neonatal Units; Special Care Unit (SCU) (Level 1) who care for babies 32 weeks and over; Local Neonatal Unit (LNU) (Level 2) who care for babies 27 weeks and above in addition to short term ventilation (48hours) – this is our unit specification at the COCH and then there is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) (Level 3) who specialise in all levels of care and gestation.

The service specification has been embedded within this document that explains in detail the categories of care and the categories of Neonatal units in detail.



service specification  
2013 (2).pdf

The Staffing on the Neonatal Unit has been and is currently understaffed and under skilled compared to other LNU's with the Operational Delivery Network (ODN) in Cheshire and Mersey region. There are 9 Units within this location – 2 Level 3 units; 1 Level 1 unit and the remainder level 2 units. (Liverpool women's Hospital and Arrowe Park Hospital being the level 3 and Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Surgical L3) and Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust/Whiston/Ormskirk/Leighton/Warrington (level 2) and Macclesfield (level 1)

There is an embedded document that highlights the deficits with regards to the skill mix and staffing issues in more detail.



Staffing Summary  
Oct-Mar 2014 for Jan

The table below is extrapolated from the staffing summary document that highlights the issue with regards to the skill mix within the ODN

