Emergency care in a remote location – Shetland Islands

Kirstie Anderson
Community Children’s Nurse
Plane – 1hr
Ferry overnight 12-14hrs

No bridge, tunnel or motorway connection to mainland Scotland
10 Health Centres

4 non doctor islands
Inter island plane
Inter island Ro-Ro ferries
Established links

- Clinical nurse specialist
- Ward nursing staff
- Dietitians
- Consultants
- CCN network
Emergency care – who do you call?

- GP
- CCN
- Hospital children’s nurse – locally
- Specialist nurse/ Consultant – mainland
- NHS 24
- Other parent
- Who?
In The Highlands geography is a specific problem

Nurse!!

Nurse!!
Secondary care

Gilbert Bain Hospital

- No dedicated paediatric inpatient facilities
- Any child admitted is under care of Adult Physicians or Surgeons;
- Consultant makes decision of transfer off island.
Retrieval teams
Equipment
Parental escort
CHALLENGES

- Travel
- Weather
- Equipment
- Lack of communication
- Lack of appropriate resources
Hospitals are getting children out quicker sicker

Bye!

HOSPITAL DOOR

Hi!

out

In
Effects on the family

- Unknown time away from home
- Disruption to family life
- Financial difficulties
- Getting home
- Communication
There is a best place for kids to be . . .

your temperature's fine son

thanks dad
Kirstie Anderson MA, RGN, RSCN, DN

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