Background: Sheffield Children’s Hospital (SCH) NHS Foundation Trust launched its new tertiary paediatric rheumatology service on 1 September 2011. Seven years on, we report on the growth of this new paediatric and adolescent rheumatology service and the multidisciplinary and multi-professional team underpinning its practise. Prior to 2008, Dr Rod Amos, an adult rheumatologist, supported by a number of SCH paediatricians, cared for the children with rheumatological conditions in SCH. Between 2008-2011, Leeds children’s hospital managed a novel service with two visiting paediatric rheumatologists from Leeds on a weekly basis, supported by two link paediatric nurses from the daycare ward.

Methods: Service development: with rapid growth in referrals, a clear need for their own service was recognised, and with advice from RCPCH CSAC, SCH invested in their own paediatric rheumatology service initially with two FTE paediatric and adolescent rheumatology consultants, 0.2 WTE adolescent and adult rheumatology consultant, 1.6 WTE clinical nurse specialist, 0.6 WTE Occupational therapy 0.85 WTE Physiotherapy, 0.2 WTE administrative support. Following Specialised Commissioning of Children’s services, a business plan was embraced by the Trust in 2012 to invest in the team with expansion (Allied health professionals, uveitis nurse specialist, pharmacist, psychologist). In 2015, a clinical fellow post and Extended Scope Practitioner in Physiotherapy Band 8a were added. Professional development has continued, Band 7 Nurse and pharmacist completed the Non Medical Prescribing course. 1 Nurse has completed the Advanced Paediatric Nursing Practice MSc, 2 nurses have completed the 1st year MSc. The current composition of the multi-disciplinary service is described in Table 1.

Results:

Conclusion: The team delivers a service to South Yorkshire covering 15-17 clinics per week, with weekly fever, uveitis and adolescent clinics, meets NHSE dashboard criteria with nurse led clinics, offers a current wait of suspected new inflammatory less than four weeks, and less than one week for suspected flares. In seven years, the SCH paediatric and adolescent rheumatology service has developed a multidisciplinary model of care with innovative supportive roles, reflective of the needs of children and young people with rheumatic conditions today.