

**SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSULTATION: CHILDREN'S HEART SERVICES**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with details of the ongoing consultation about the reconfiguration of children's heart services in England.

2. Background

2.1 The NHS in England is currently consulting on proposals for reconfiguration of children's congenital heart services in England. The four-month Safe and Sustainable consultation has involved public consultation events and online consultation.

2.2 The consultation follows the national 'Safe and sustainable review' which is proposing four options to reduce the number of hospitals providing children's heart surgery from 11 to six or seven. The review also proposes that many non surgical services, such as diagnosis, assessments and ongoing care, are provided closer to where patients live.

3. Consultation Process

3.1 Safe and Sustainable would like to encourage overview and scrutiny committees to consider and respond to the proposals set out in the consultation document Safe and Sustainable: a new vision for children's congenital heart services in England ('the consultation proposals').

[http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe\\_sustainable/public-consultation-2011](http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011)

3.2 Safe and Sustainable will share key findings of the health impact assessment during the consultation to inform responses to the consultation, and a more substantive report will be shared in August 2011. An independent report on the outcome of the consultation will also be shared in August 2011. Overview and scrutiny committees will then have an opportunity to add to their earlier submissions, should they wish to, until 5 October 2011.

3.3 Responses to the consultation proposals will be considered in the decision-making process, along with an independent report to the consultation, full health impact assessment and other evidence.

3.4 No decisions about the future of any of the centres under review will be made until after the consultation. A decision on the proposals is expected in November 2011 and it will be made by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) on behalf of local commissioners.

3.5 Once the JCPCT makes a decision on the future configuration of children's congenital heart services in England, Safe and Sustainable will share it with the overview and scrutiny committees. This is expected to take place in November 2011.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Members are asked to consider and respond to the proposals in the consultation.

5. Background Papers

Safe and Sustainable: A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England - Consultation Document

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