

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 (by 1 July 2011) set out in the consultation document Safe and Sustainable: a new vision for children's congenital heart services in England ('the consultation proposals'). The Executive Summary from the document is attached at Appendix A of this report and the full document can be downloaded at the following link:
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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2. SUMMARY

We believe change is needed in the way in which children's congenital heart services are planned and delivered. Change will improve outcomes for children and ensure services are **SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE**.

Expert clinicians and parents have highlighted the need for change. This is what we are trying to achieve:

- Better and more accessible diagnostic services and follow up treatment delivered through congenital heart networks
- Better results in surgical centres with lower deaths and complications following surgery
- Improved communication between parents and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Reduced waiting times and fewer cancelled operations
- A highly trained workforce expert in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the sustainability of the service in the future
- An excellent service that delivers modern working practices using innovative techniques and continuing research and development to advance the quality of care children receive

WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

In order to make changes to the way services are organised the NHS wants to ask the public for its views. We would like to hear from anyone with a view on the future of congenital heart services including the people most affected: parents, young people and NHS staff. We would like your views on four main areas:



STANDARDS OF CARE

The proposed national quality standards that have been developed to ensure higher standards of care can be provided consistently across the country. Are they the right standards?



LARGER SURGICAL CENTRES

We believe that the number of hospitals that provide heart surgery for children should be reduced from the 11 current centres to six or seven in response to evidence that suggests that only larger surgical centres can achieve true quality and excellence. Will fewer larger centres improve outcomes for children and young people?



CONGENITAL HEART NETWORKS

We are proposing that surgical centres are not just responsible for the care they provide but that they would lead a congenital heart network. These networks would co-ordinate services and strengthen existing local assessment services where they exist and develop more outreach support in areas that have been neglected in the past. Are congenital heart networks the right model of care to improve services for children and young people?



MEASURING QUALITY

We are recommending that new systems are implemented for the analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data relating to treatments for children with congenital heart disease. Do you agree that new systems should be implemented to monitor outcomes?

2 - SUMMARY

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE

The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future are:

OPTION A

SEVEN SURGICAL CENTRES AT:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

OPTION B

SEVEN SURGICAL CENTRES AT:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- 2 centres in London

OPTION C

SIX SURGICAL CENTRES AT:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

OPTION D

SIX SURGICAL CENTRES AT:

- Leeds General Infirmary
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

LONDON

LONDON:

The preferred two London surgical centres in the four options are:

- Evelina Children's Hospital
- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children



Additionally, there are other recommendations for you to consider.

This document sets out the way in which the proposals for change have been developed and what they would mean for you.

On page 132 you will find details about how to give your view. The closing date for responses is 1 July 2011.

