

Councillor John Illingworth

Chair, Scrutiny Board
(Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
3rd Floor (East)
Civic Hall
LEEDS LS1 1UR

Mr Andy Buck, Director
NHS England (West Yorkshire Area Team)
3 Leeds City Office Park
Meadow Lane
Leeds
LS11 5BD

E-Mail address	john.illingworth@leeds.gov.uk
Civic Hall Tel.	0113 39 50456
Civic Fax	0113 24 78889
Your ref	
Our ref	Jl/SMC
Date	4 March 2014

Sent by e-mail only

Dear Andy,

Children's Epilepsy Surgery

In July 2013, concerns were raised with Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) regarding the *Safe and Sustainable* review of Children's Neurosurgical Services and the subsequent proposals for the treatment of children with epilepsy.

Details presented to the Scrutiny Board and the associated minutes from the meeting are available using the following link:

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=799&MId=6379&Ver=4>

From the details presented and discussed at the meeting, specific concerns identified by the Scrutiny Board included:

- The potential shift from procuring 'additional capacity' for children's epilepsy surgery to successful providers being consider the 'sole' providers of services;
- The consideration of 'patient's needs' and 'geographical distribution' within the procurement process;
- The consistency of the procurement process;
- Concerns associated with the overall '*Safe and Sustainable*' programme.

At that time, the Scrutiny Board agreed to include this area within its work programme for 2013/14 and to invite NHS England to be to provide a written briefing/ update on the Safe and Sustainable review of Children's Neurosurgical Services for consideration at a future meeting consider. However, with such a broad remit and the level of unprecedented change across health and social care, other matters have taken a higher priority.

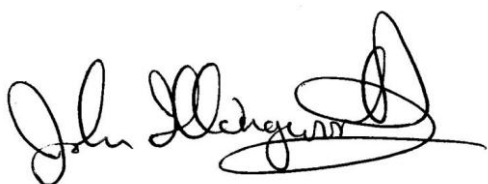
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To date, NHS England has not been invited to comment on this matter and/or attend a meeting to discuss the concerns raised. Nonetheless, while I recognise that NHS England is a relatively new body and much of the work in this area pre-dates its establishment, with the recently announced imperative to develop a strategy and review the provision of all Specialised Services, it seems both appropriate and timely to ensure these matters are drawn to your attention for comment.

There are a number of other issues to consider in terms of NHS England's approach to reviewing all Specialised Services and I hope to discuss these in the near future. However, I trust the general matters around Specialised Services will not prevent or delay a detailed response to the issues raised regarding the *Safe and Sustainable* review of Children's Neurosurgical Services and the treatment of children with epilepsy.

Should you need any further information and/or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. Otherwise, I look forward to receiving NHS England's substantive response in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Illingworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor John Illingworth
Chair, Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

cc: Members of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
Cllr Lisa Mulherin, Chair, Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board
Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Healthwatch Leeds
Health Scrutiny Chairs – Yorkshire and the Humber