

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Date: 19 December 2011

Subject: Review of Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England: Scrutiny Referral to the Secretary of State for Health - update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable Appendix number: Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) forms the statutory overview and scrutiny body to consider and respond to the proposed reconfiguration of Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England – taking into account the potential impact on children and families across the region.
2. The Joint HOSC submitted its formal consultation response to the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) on 5 October 2011. A formal report was subsequently submitted to the JCPCT on 10 October 2011. In line with the *Overview and Scrutiny of Health – Guidance (Department of Health (DH) (July 2003))* a formal written response to the report and its recommendations within 28 days of receipt was requested.
3. On 14 October 2011, two copies of the Joint HOSC’s report were sent to the Secretary of State for Health and the matter was formally referred for consideration on the basis of inadequate consultation with the Joint HOSC by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT), as the appropriate NHS body.
4. The referral was made on behalf of the Joint HOSC and in accordance with the provisions set out in the Health and Social Care Act (2001) (as amended) and the associated regulations¹.

¹ The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002

5. On 8 December 2011, a formal response was received and is attached at Appendix 1 for information. This confirms that the Secretary of State for Health has referred this matter to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for an initial review. The outcome of this initial review should be known by mid January 2012.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to note the updated position.

Background documents

- Overview and Scrutiny of Health – Guidance (Department of Health (DH) (July 2003)
- A new vision for Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England (March 2011)
- Scrutiny Inquiry Report: Review of Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services (October 2011)