



## Children's Heart Surgery Fund – campaign update

Children's Heart Surgery Fund are continuing to campaign to retain Leeds Paediatric Heart Surgery Service, however, momentum has slowed down somewhat due to a judicial review of Safe and Sustainable brought against JCPCT by the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust which concluded on Monday 7th November that *"the consultation exercise was unlawful, and must therefore be quashed"*

It now looks like the final outcome may not be known until spring/Summer 2012 which gives us more time to make the case for Leeds. Whilst we feel it is very frustrating that this decision will yet again be delayed, we know it is vital the correct decision should be made in the end.

On November 2nd we were given the opportunity to meet the Minister Simon Burns through Rachel Reeves MP, we were delighted we were given the chance to demonstrate the case for Leeds and the logic behind keeping the service in this city. The Minister was in listening mode, and explained on a number of occasions that he was happy to listen but couldn't at this stage interfere with the process. Jeremy Glyde, Programme Director of Safe and Sustainable was also at the meeting. I took the opportunity to ask if option E (LTHT's submission) was under consideration and he assured me further options were being considered, and some of them certainly had Leeds in them.

Our discussion points were based on the Adult service, Co-location of services- Population density, patient flows. I also had the opportunity to ask Mr Burns if the final decision was not in Leeds favour, could we come back and see him, he replied yes!

On November 8th we were informed that the publication of independent research conducted by Price Waterhouse Cooper into patient flows confirmed what CHSF and LTHT have been saying for the past few months: that the Review's predictions of patient flows did not match local knowledge and that most of Leeds's future and existing patients would travel to Liverpool or Leicester for treatment rather than Newcastle. This will have an impact on the projected number of 400 operations at Newcastle; the Newcastle unit will simply not make the required number.

CHSF Trustees attended an EGM on Weds 30th November, the subject was making a decision on a potential Judicial Review- it was thought and confirmed by all Trustees that CHSF have come so far in this campaign and we have to continue to fight for the Children of this region, it was unanimously decided that should the final decision (whenever that be) not be in Leeds favour then we would also be serving the JCPCT with a Judicial Review.

It was also agreed that CHSF should send a document as our submission to the Safe and Sustainable should we have a fresh consultation. This document is being created and will be submitted just before the festive break.

**Sharon Cheng, Charity Director**

**December 2011**