

Anne Keatley-Clarke, Chief Executive
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Councillor John Illingworth
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Your ref
Our ref JI/SMC
Date 21 March 2013

Dear Ms. Keatley-Clarke,

Re: Concerns associated with the children's cardiac surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary

As you may be aware, for some time the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) for Yorkshire and the Humber has been considering the proposed service model and reconfiguration of children's cardiac surgical centres across England, and the implications for children and families in this region. Underpinning the JHOSC's consideration has been the quality of service available to children and families.

Through recent media reports I have become aware that the Children's Heart Federation has recently raised concerns regarding clinical practices and services on the children's cardiac surgery unit with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Clearly, the concerns reported are relevant to the JHOSC's recent work and will no doubt be of particular interest to members on the JHOSC.

I shall contact the CQC separately to seek assurance of its processes and the outcome of its deliberation. Nonetheless, in the context of its on-going work, I think it is appropriate for the JHOSC to formally consider the concerns raised by CHF.

Arrangements for the next meeting of the JHOSC are currently being put in place. The meeting will take place on **10 April 2013 at Leeds Civic Hall, commencing at 11:00am**, and I wish to invite you to attend this meeting to discuss the concerns raised.

Given recent developments associated with the legal challenge brought against the JCPCT and the subsequent announcement that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) will now report to the Secretary of State for Health by 30 April 2013, the JHOSC will be considering if any further submission to the IRP is necessary and/or warranted.

Cont./

I should be grateful if you could confirm your availability for 10 April 2013 and, for the purpose of inclusion on the agenda, it would be helpful if you could share a copy of letter (and any associated attachments) sent by CHF to the CQC. Please forward any details to Steven Courtney (Principal Scrutiny Adviser) at steven.courtney@leeds.gov.uk .

Should you wish to discuss arrangements for the meeting in more detail, please contact Steven on 0113 247 4707.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

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

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

cc All members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)