

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals

NHS Trust

Statement

27 March 2013

Re: Children's heart surgery at Leeds

Maggie Boyle, Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, said today:

“Following discussions earlier today with senior representatives from NHS England and the Care Quality Commission the Trust has agreed to carry out an internal review independently validated and supported by external experts. This will look at all aspects of congenital cardiac surgery for children undertaken at the unit in Leeds.

“We have taken the decision to temporarily pause children's cardiac surgery and associated interventions while this review is conducted, a process we would aim to complete in around three weeks. We apologise to parents and families who will be affected during this time, and can assure them we always put the safety of our patients first.

“It is really important to us that the review is done as speedily and comprehensively as possible, which, of course, we hope will show the services in Leeds to be safe. We are confident in the quality of the care provided by our staff and hope they will bear with us during this difficult time.

“Families whose surgery may be affected during this time are being contacted directly by the Trust.”

Ends