

The new review of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) in England

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

At the JHOSC meeting on 3 November 2014, members heard that a clinical network meeting was due to consider the proposed service specifications and draft standards at a meeting on 10 November 2014.

It should be noted that minutes from the network meeting are not routinely taken, as they tend to be more educational type meetings with presentations and discussion. It should also be noted that there was a formal network board that was supported through a collective of Yorkshire and Humber Primary Care Trusts, prior to the creation of NHS England in April 2012.

The Network meeting was joint meeting between the Leeds Network and the Leicester Network. The Trusts represented at the meeting included:

- LTHT
- Leicester University Hospital Trust
- Nottingham Children's Hospital
- Sheffield Children's Hospital
- York Hospital
- Chesterfield District General Hospital
- Hull Hospital

Based on feedback from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's lead cardiologist, Dr Elspeth Brown, the points below set out the main areas of discussion/ outcomes from that meeting:

- Generally it was felt the standards were sensible and described a good service.
- There were concerns that there is no evidence for 400 or 500 cases per centre (as discussed in the IRP report) and this standard would at present lead to centres having to close. There was concern that with the current rate of increase in the population of adult patients with congenital heart disease (due to better survival) closure of centres now would lead to problems with national capacity in the future.
- The new standards define a network structure with a network manager and administrative support. The description of the network represents an Operational Delivery Network and it should be funded as such.
- Historical funding for specialised services was discussed and it was felt that historic differences in funding should be recognised as part of any implementation.

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