

Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Briefing 2

Spring 2011

1.0 Background information

This briefing provides an update on the NHS review of children's congenital cardiac services. This is the second briefing we have sent to local authorities in England to update them about the ongoing review of children's heart surgery services. The first briefing was issued in November 2010. A separate briefing has also been issued to your Health Overview and Scrutiny committee (HOSC).

2.0 Aims of the review

What does the review aim to achieve?

- Better results in the surgical centres with fewer deaths and complications following surgery
- Better, more accessible diagnostic services and follow up treatment delivered within regional and local networks
- Reduced waiting times and cancelled operations
- Improved communication between parents and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the sustainability of the service
- A trained workforce expert in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Centres at the forefront of modern working practices and innovative technologies that are leaders in research and development
- A network of specialist centres collaborating in research and clinical development, encouraging the sharing of knowledge across the network

3.0 The review process: Where are we now?

The options for change

The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT), the decision-making body for *Safe and Sustainable* held a meeting in public on 16th February. At this meeting the recommendations for changes to the way children's congenital heart services were discussed and the options for reconfiguring the service were agreed.

What will we be consulting on?

We will be consulting on the following key areas:

- Standards of care: proposed national quality standards of care to be applied consistently across the country
- Congenital heart networks: development of networks to coordinate care and ensure more local provision (e.g. assessment, ongoing care)

- The options: the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future
- Better Monitoring: improvements for analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data

There are currently 11 surgical centres across England:

- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Evelina Children's Hospital, London
- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London
- John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (surgery services are currently suspended)
- Leeds Teaching Hospital
- Southampton General Hospital
- Royal Brompton Hospital, London

The four options that the public will be consulted on are:

Option A

Seven surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

Option B

Seven surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- 2 centres in London

Option C

Six surgical centres at:

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

Option D

Six surgical centres at:

- Leeds General Infirmary
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

London

The preferred two London centres in the four options are:

- Evelina Children's Hospital
- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

New national quality standards to improve care

New national quality national standards have been developed as part of this review to help ensure that services produce better outcomes for children and are safe and sustainable. These are the quality criteria that experts believe must be met by any hospital that performs heart surgery on children. The proposed standards were developed in partnership with healthcare professionals, parents and patient groups and they are part of this consultation.

The development of congenital heart networks

Safe and Sustainable is proposing that surgical centres are not just responsible for the care they provide but that they lead a congenital heart network. These networks would ensure services are better coordinated and strengthen existing local assessment and ongoing care services where they exist and develop more outreach support in areas that have been neglected in the past. The standards set out the proposed roles for Specialist Surgical Centres, Children's Cardiology Centres and district level services and how the different parts of the network will work together.

4.0 The public consultation

Consultation timings: The NHS has launched a four month public consultation which will close on 1st July 2011.

Who will consult?

The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts

The NHS has established a national Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) which has legal powers for consultation and decision making. The committee includes the Chair of each of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in England (each SCG Chair is a PCT Chief Executive).

The Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee were invited to join the JCPCT as Welsh children are usually referred to a heart surgical centre in England. They have chosen to attend meetings as observers to enable them to continue to ensure the interests of children in Wales are represented.

How will the NHS consult with the public?

The NHS wants as many people with an interest in children's congenital cardiac services to take part in the consultation. Everyone's view will be considered. The public will be able to take part in the consultation in the following ways.

Printed communications: We will be publishing a consultation document. This will be available to view online and printed copies will also be available upon request. We will also be producing a range of posters and leaflets to help promote the consultation events taking place around the country.

Online: Our website www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable will carry an online version of the consultation document, a link to the response form, materials on the consultation process, and a video about the consultation.

Face to face events in England and Wales: We will hold over 15 face to face events in England and Wales, including three events specifically for young people. These events will help give people the information they need and answer any questions they may have, with the aim of encouraging people to take part in the consultation. The events will give people the opportunity to put their views to local clinicians and commissioners. More information and a link to the registration page can be found on our website.

We will be holding consultation events at:

Location	Date	Time of primary event	Proposed Venue
London (Event for young people)	Sat 19 March	11am-1pm	Charing Cross Hotel
Birmingham	Mon 4 April	6-8pm	Maple House
Cardiff	Tues 5 April	6-8pm	Cardiff City FC Stadium
Newcastle	Thurs 7 April	6:30-8:30pm	Discovery Museum
Birmingham (Event for young people)	Sat 9 April	11am-1pm	Maple House
Oxford	Wed 4 May	6-8pm	Kassam Stadium
London	Sat 7 May	11am- 1pm	Emirates Stadium
Warrington	Mon 9 May	6-8pm	Halliwell Jones Stadium
Leeds	Tues 10 May	6-8pm	Royal Armouries Museum
York (Event for young people)	Sat 14 May	11am-1pm	The Royal Hotel York
Cambridge	Wed 18 May	6-8pm	De Vere University Arms Hotel
Gatwick	Thurs 19 May	3-5pm	Cophorne Effingham Park
Southampton	Tues 24 May	6-8pm	The Guildhall (part of the Civic Centre)
Taunton	Tues 7 June	3-5pm	Taunton Racecourse
Leicester	Thurs 16 June	6-8pm	Walkers Stadium

Media relations: We are also working with the media to ensure information about the review process and the consultation appears nationally and locally.

What happens to the consultation responses?

Ipsos MORI, an independent company will collect and analyse all the responses and a comprehensive analysis of the responses will be published in a final report. The Joint Committee of

Primary Care Trusts will consider the report carefully to help them evaluate the four options and make a final decision. We expect a final decision to be made in Autumn 2011. Implementation of any changes to children's congenital heart services are expected to start in 2013.

5.0 Is there support for the review?

There is strong support. The review was instigated at the request of national parent groups, NHS clinicians and their professional associations.

The review is supported by the following organisations:



What engagement has taken place?

The review process has benefitted from the input that clinicians and parents have provided to help shape the national standards and the design of the future service. A range of engagement activity has taken place, including national and regional engagement events for parents and staff. Summaries of the meetings are on our website. The Safe and Sustainable review team has provided updates to keep parents and staff informed about the progress of the review.

The Gateway report

The Safe and Sustainable review process has itself been subject to external scrutiny. The Office of Government Commerce 'Gateway' report (September 2010) into the process concluded that "the Steering Group is seen as having exercised real leadership in the work to articulate the clinical case and to develop quality standards". It also noted that "stakeholder engagement to date has been robust and impressive, and there is widespread support for the new standards and the case for reconfiguration."

The NCAT report

The NHS National Clinical Advisory Team has also delivered a very positive independent assessment of the review. NCAT has concluded that there is a strong case for reconfiguring paediatric cardiac surgery by reducing the number of cardiac surgery centres across England, and has endorsed the proposed network model of care. Both reports have made some helpful recommendations which we are now acting on.

Have any decisions been made by the NHS?

The NHS has not yet made any decisions on the future configuration of services. No decisions will be made until the outcome of consultation has been considered.

In October we issued a statement about one of the current centres, the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. The NHS review team has recommended to the Joint Committee of PCTs that this centre should not be included in any potential configuration option. This is because the service at the John Radcliffe Hospital received the lowest ranking as part of the assessment process by a significant margin and that it would be the least likely of all the centres to be able to meet the new quality standards in the future. The JCPCT has accepted this recommendation.

The NHS has not yet made any decisions on the future configuration of services. No decisions, including on the future of the service at the John Radcliffe Hospital, will be made until the outcome of consultation has been considered.

5.0 Key dates

W/c 28th February 2011: Launch of the public consultation

April – June 2011: Regional public consultation events

1st July 2011: Formal public consultation ends

July – Sept 2011: Analysis of consultation by independent third party

Autumn 2011: JCPCT considers outcome of consultation

Winter 2011: Decisions expected

2013: Implementation

6.0 Would you like further information?

Do let us know if you would like any further information and please do register to participate in forthcoming consultation events.

Contact details

The NHS review is led by NHS Specialised Services on behalf of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups in England.

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For further information please contact us, or see our website:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safeandsustainable