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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Date: 29 March 2011

Subject: Reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England – initial response from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce and present details provided by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) as an initial response to the Reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England options for consultation, published in early March 2011.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 As previously reported, in 2008 the NHS Medical Director requested a review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England. The aim of the review was to develop and bring forward recommendations for a *Safe and Sustainable* national service that has:

- Better results in surgical centres with fewer deaths and complications following surgery
- Better, more accessible assessment services and follow up treatment delivered within regional and local networks
- Reduced waiting times and fewer cancelled operations
- Improved communication between parents/ guardians and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the service is sustainable for the future
- A trained workforce of experts in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Surgical centres at the forefront of modern working practices and new 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

2.2 On behalf of the ten Specialised Commissioning Groups in England, and their constituent local Primary Care Trusts, the *Safe and Sustainable* review team (at NHS Specialised Services) has managed the review process. This has involved:

- Engaging with partners across the country to understand what works well at the moment and what needs to be changed
- Developing standards – in partnership with the public, NHS staff and their associations – that surgical centres must meet in the future
- Developing a network model of care to help strengthen local cardiology services
- An independent expert panel assessment of each of the current surgical centres against the standards
- The consideration of a number of potential configuration options against other criteria including access, travel times and population.

2.3 At the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) meeting held on 16 February 2011, the following recommendations and options for consultation were presented and agreed:

- Development of Congenital Heart Networks across England that would comprise all of the NHS services that provide care to children with Congenital Heart Disease and their families, from antenatal screening through to the transition to adult services.
- Implementation of new clinical standards that must be met by all NHS hospitals designated to provide heart surgery for children
- Implementation of new systems for the analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data relating to treatments for children with Congenital Heart Disease.
- A reduction in the number of NHS hospitals in England that provide heart surgery for children from the current 11 hospitals to 6 or 7 hospitals in the belief that only larger surgical centres can achieve true quality and excellence.
- The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future 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<sup>1</sup>

**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<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The preferred two London centres in the four options are Evelina Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

**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<sup>1</sup>

**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<sup>1</sup>

2.4 A period of public consultation has commenced and will run until 1 July 2011.

2.5 At the first meeting of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber), members received a briefing around the proposals from representatives of the regional Specialised Commissioning Group (SCG) and agreed to invite representatives from LTHT to provide an initial response to the proposed reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England.

**3.0 Initial response from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT)**

3.1 Senior representatives from LTHT will be in attendance at the meeting, however by way of introduction, a brief summary of the Trust's initial response is appended to this report.

**4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 Members of the Joint HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) are asked to consider the details presented in this report and discussed at the meeting as part of its ongoing consideration of the options for consultation, and:

- (a) Identify any specific matters that should be highlighted in the joint committee's final report and/ or consultation response
- (b) Identify any specific matters/ issues that warrant further scrutiny.

**5.0 Background Documents**

- Children's Heart Surgery: The need for Change – April 2010
- A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Consultation Document – March 2011