

Councillor Lisa Mulherin

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Sir Neil McKay (Chair, JCPCT)
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Your ref	
Our ref	LM/SMC
Date	22 August 2011

Dear Sir Neil,

Re: Children's Congenital Cardiac Services Review – Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

As Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) considering the proposed reconfiguration of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services and the potential impact on children and families across the region, I am writing to express our frustration that the outcome of the additional work to test assumptions around patient flows will not be available for HOSCs to consider prior to the 5 October 2011 consultation deadline: This is a vital source of evidence that warrants detailed consideration to help the Joint HOSC prepare a more fully informed consultation response and it is unacceptable that this will not be available to us.

I also note with some concern that this information will not be publicly available until after the JCPCT has made a decision on the reconfiguration proposals – a situation that is quite astounding and certainly not in the spirit of open and transparent decision-making.

At our next meeting on 2 September 2011, and in the absence of the PwC report, the Joint HOSC will be considering patient flow details provided in the regional impact assessment prepared by the SCG, alongside an impact assessment produced by EMBRACE – the regional body responsible for delivering a dedicated paediatric transport service.

With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and/or Ailsa Claire, in your respective roles within the formal decision-making body, to attend this meeting to provide an update on the work of the JCPCT and to address questions on the role of the JCPCT within the review process to date. This will also provide an opportunity for you to hear first hand the details presented by EMBRACE.

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I appreciate that this formal invitation to attend on 2 September 2011 may be relatively short notice; however the former Chair of the Joint HOSC first outlined the committee's intentions to involve appropriate representatives of the JCPCT and the Safe and Sustainable Team in April 2011 (copy enclosed). Despite the apparent lack of a formal response to that letter, I trust the content of this letter will have previously been communicated to you.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future. However, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries and/or need any additional information.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Lisa Mulherin
Chair, Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Yorkshire and the Humber

Enc.

cc Jeremy Glyde, Safe and Sustainable Programme Director (NHS Specialised Services)
Ailsa Claire, Chair (Yorkshire and the Humber Specialised Commissioning Group)
Cathy Edwards, Director (Yorkshire and the Humber Specialised Commissioning Group)
All Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Councillor Mark Dobson

Chair, Scrutiny Board
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Our ref	MD/smc
Date	14 April 2011

Dear Mr. Glyde,

Re: Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England

Thank you for your recent communication (8 April 2011), highlighting concerns associated with comments attributable to Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT). I have sought a response to these concerns from the Trust's Chief Executive, Ms. Maggie Boyle.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the 15 local authorities (with Health Scrutiny responsibilities) across the Yorkshire and Humber Region have established a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) to consider the proposals of this national review and provide a consultation response in this regard. As such, I will share your communication with other members of the Joint HOSC, alongside any response from LTHT.

I understand that Steven Courtney (Principle Scrutiny Adviser to Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Board (Health) and the Joint HOSC) has already been in contact with you, advising of the current progress and future work of the Joint HOSC. As such, I will not repeat the content of that communication, other than perhaps to re-emphasise the following points:

Involvement of Safe and Sustainable/ the JCPCT in the work of the Joint HOSC

Members of the Joint HOSC are keen to meet with appropriate representatives and would therefore wish to formally invite you (as Programme Director), along with the Chair of the JCPCT (Sir Neil McKay) and the Yorkshire and Humber SCG representative on the JCPCT (Ms. Ailsa Claire) to contribute to a future meeting (or meetings) of the Joint HOSC in this region. The main purpose of this attendance being to help the Joint HOSC consider in more detail the:

- Review process and formulation of options presented for consultation;
- Projected improvements in patient outcomes and experience; and,
- Likely impact on children and their families (in the short, medium and longer-term), in particular in terms of access to services and travel times.

I would appreciate your cooperation in this regard and trust you will provide details of availability as a matter of urgency.

Cont./

Consultation process and associated timescales

Members of the Joint HOSC were concerned about the general accessibility of the proposals, given:

- (a) The length and complexity of the consultation document (which exceeds 230 pages);
- (b) That a summary document had not been provided; and
- (c) The accessibility of the consultation questions

The Joint HOSC also expressed significant concern regarding the timing of the consultation, its proximity to local elections and the impact of purdah. There was a strongly held view that this demonstrated a lack of appreciation (or regard for) local democracy and the potential impact on the work (and membership) of a Joint HOSC.

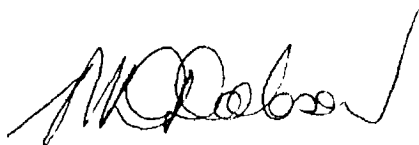
As you are already aware, one of the outcomes of the Joint HOSC meeting held on 29 March 2011, was to formally seek a three month extension to the consultation period. In part, this is to allow the Joint HOSC to complete its work and issue its report and any recommendations. A report to this effect is currently being prepared and will be formally directed to the JCPCT in the near future.

I trust you appreciate that, as democratically elected representatives of local communities, the overall health and wellbeing of all citizens across the Yorkshire and Humber region is without question an underlying consideration for all local councillors. Nonetheless, I think it is worth reinforcing that this is not only a cornerstone of the work of the Joint HOSC but its primary purpose when considering the proposals put forward. Furthermore, the consultation document detailing the proposed changes states, '*We would like to hear from anyone with a view on the future of congenital heart services...*'. This is precisely one of the aims of the Joint HOSC – in order to help inform its view and any recommendations it may put forward.

In addition, as Chair of the Joint HOSC and as an advocate of openness and transparency, I will be working hard to ensure that we seek as wide a range of views as possible and that the vast majority of the committee's work is undertaken in public. Undoubtedly, this is likely to attract local media interest – particularly during a period of a public consultation and engagement. As such, I make no apologies for the range of views that may be expressed as part of the scrutiny process and which may be subsequently reported – even where some of those views may be unpalatable and seen as unhelpful to the review team and/or the JCPCT.

Finally, I hope you take the opportunity to engage with the Health Scrutiny process in this region and look forward to receiving your response in the very near future.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Mark Dobson
Chair, Scrutiny Board (Health)

cc Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)
Cathy Edwards, Director – Specialised Commissioning Group (Yorkshire and the Humber)