

12 August 2011

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Our ref: Ref: RGO/DM/CG/lp

Dear Mr Courtney

**Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber) –
Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services Review**

Thank you for your letter dated 1 August 2011. The Trust responded to the previous public consultation through our Consultant Paediatricians who made individual responses from their informed position.

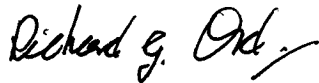
Having considered the position now reached in the review process, I do wish to express the following points of view on behalf of the Trust.

1. The review process seems perverse in placing the Leeds Centre in only one option and not the preferred option.
2. In terms of accessibility for our district and patients Leeds would be the preferred centre.
3. Irrespective of travel times, the preferred option does not offer co-location of services and disregards established regional networks.
4. We have not surveyed the views of local service users.
5. In relation to implications for the health economy, the preferred option of Newcastle Centre will increase costs in travel times and reduplication of services.
6. Particular points arising are as follows:
 - a. The current proposal does not address the risk to services to ‘blue babies’. We have two – three such patients per year in Harrogate. They require rapid assessment by Specialist Paediatric Services followed in some cases by immediate cardiac surgery. These patients will not be well-served by the current proposal.
 - b. Newcastle Paediatric Services are not integrated on one site unlike other centres such as Leeds.
 - c. The review does not consider survivorship of paediatric patients into adult cardiac care. This is well-established in Leeds.

- d. The present proposal places Leeds as an out-post. In time this out-post centre would cease to attract the highest fliers in paediatric cardiology.
- e. The present proposal has profoundly adverse effects on the transport systems for paediatric intensive care, which has been a marvellous local development.

In view of this Trust, the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Yorkshire and the Humber should take the widest possible view in considering all factors which may affect the efficiency of the delivery of Children's Congenital Cardiac Services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard G. Ord', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard G Ord
Chief Executive