



Sent to Alder Hey Hospital and Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Democratic Services

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Our Ref:
Your Ref:

1 August 2011

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

As you will be aware, the future configuration and delivery of Children’s Congenital Cardiac Services in England have been reviewed and are currently being considered as part of the national *Safe and Sustainable* programme; with the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JPCTC) expected to make a final decision in the autumn.

As statutory consultees on any proposed substantial changes/ developments of local NHS services, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) across the Yorkshire and Humber region have formed a formal joint committee to consider the proposals and the potential impact on the communities across the region and represented by local councillors. This approach takes into account the cross-boundary characteristics of the review/ proposals, and is in line with the direction provided by the Secretary of State for Health when considering proposed service changes of this nature.

You may also be aware that, while public consultation closed on 1 July 2011, HOSCs have an extended period of time in which to respond – currently 5 October 2011.

In order to provide an informed response/ report on the proposals, the Yorkshire and Humber Joint HOSC is seeking to gather a wide range of evidence from different sources and key stakeholders, in order to help members give specific consideration to the following areas:

- The review process and formulation of options presented for consultation;
- Any projected improvements in patient outcomes and experience;
- The 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;
- Views of local service users and/or their representatives;
- Potential implications and impact on the health economy and the economy in general, on a local and regional basis;
- Any other pertinent matters that arise as part of the Committee’s inquiry.

Cont./

With the above points in mind, I would like to offer you the opportunity to provide a written submission to be presented to the Joint HOSC.

Three out of the four options presented in the public consultation document suggest children from the Yorkshire and Humber region needing to access cardiac surgery services would do so outside of the region. As such, in providing any response, please specifically outline how the Trust would improve services for children and families from across Yorkshire and the Humber, including developing and coordinating the clinical network. In addition, please outline how the Trust would seek mitigate any perceived negative implications around access times, co-location of services and adults cardiac services. This may include, in whole or in part, the Trust's response already provided as part of the public consultation process. However, please be aware that any information provided is likely to be made publicly available and become a matter of public record.

The next meeting of the Joint HOSC is currently being planned for 2 September 2011, and it is hoped that any evidence received will be made available to the Joint HOSC at that meeting. In order to present any information to the Joint HOSC at this meeting, it would be helpful if you could provide any submission by 19 August 2011 at the latest – using the above contact details.

I hope you are able to contribute to the work of the Joint HOSC; however, please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any queries and/or need any additional information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Courtney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven Courtney
Principal Scrutiny Adviser
Democratic Services