

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Date: 22 September 2011

Subject: Proposed Reconfiguration of Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England: Details of Council motions from across Yorkshire and the Humber

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Not applicable Appendix number: Not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Summary of main issues

1. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee HOSC (Yorkshire and the Humber) forms the statutory overview and scrutiny body to consider and respond to the proposed reconfiguration of Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England – taking into account the potential impact on children and families across the region. HOSCs have been given until 5 October 2011 to respond to the proposals.
2. In considering the proposals set out in the *Safe and Sustainable Consultation Document: A new vision for Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England (March 2011)*, Members of the Joint HOSC have sought to consider a wide range of evidence and engage with a range of key stakeholders.
3. A number of Council’s from across Yorkshire and the Humber have debated the current proposals, which could see such services no longer provided from the current regional centre at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT). A number of Councils from across the region have passed motions calling for the retention of services at Leeds. Details of the motions passed and associated correspondence are presented at Appendix 1. Any further details received will be provided as soon as practicable.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to consider the details associated with this report and identify/ agree any specific matters for inclusion in the Committee’s report to be presented to JCPCT later in the year

Background documents

- A new vision for Children’s Congenital Heart Services in England (March 2011)

Details of Council motions across Yorkshire and the Humber

City of York Council – 7 April 2011

'There are 11 children's heart surgery units in England, but the NHS is proposing under its 'Safe and Sustainable' review to reduce this to 6 or 7 specialist hubs undertaking 400 operations per year; and,

The choice facing the NHS review team will be to retain either the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary or the unit at Newcastle to serve the north; and,

Leeds serves a major population catchments area of 14 million people in Yorkshire and the Humber, Lincolnshire and North Derbyshire, has the capacity to expand and has centralised the whole of its children's services operations on one site; and,

Leeds General Infirmary is at the forefront of work on inherited cardiac conditions and is much valued for providing safe, high quality children's heart surgery;

Council asks Members to join with local MPs and community groups to express all-party support for keeping open the Children's Heart Unit at Leeds General Infirmary and asks the Chief Executive to write to the Department of Health to ask for the retention of the Leeds Children's Heart Unit as the centre best placed to serve as the specialist hub for the needs of young cardiac patients in Yorkshire and the north of England.'

East Riding of Yorkshire – 27 July 2011

'That this Council supports the retention of the Children's Cardiac Surgery Services at Leeds as the unit serves a region of population of almost 14 million people and Leeds General Infirmary is ideally placed to deliver services as it does now, to people living throughout Yorkshire and the Humber, Lincolnshire and the North Midlands.'

Harrogate Borough Council – 13 April 2011

'This Council supports the excellent work of the Yorkshire Heart Centre at Leeds General Infirmary and notes with concern the Unit's limited inclusion in the NHS proposals for the national reconfiguration of Children's cardiac Surgery.

The Services provided at present are an important and essential part of health services available to residents of Harrogate District.

The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Health in order to call for the retention of the vitally important surgical services in Leeds.'

Letter and response attached.

Kirklees Council – 23 March 2011

"This Council notes with concern the potential closure of the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary, as a result of the Department of Health's 'Safe and Sustainable' review of Children's Heart Surgery Units.

The closure of the Leeds Unit, which serves a large population centre, will have a severe impact on Yorkshire families, including those living in Kirklees, and would mean that parents with sick children would have to travel to Newcastle, Liverpool or Leicester, to receive the essential treatment currently provided in Leeds. This will cause extreme difficulty as a result of the distances families will have to travel, at a time of high anxiety about their child's health.

This Council recognises that a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is currently meeting to fully consider the proposals for children's congenital cardiac surgery services. Whilst not wishing to predetermine the findings of that review, nevertheless this Council wishes to express serious concerns about the impacts of removing services from the Leeds area. These concerns to be forwarded in a letter to the Department of Health with copies to all MP's within the Kirklees area.

This Council also requests that representations be made on behalf of the Council as part of the Department of Health's consultation exercise in support of the retention of the Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit."

Report to Council (including letter and response) attached

Leeds City Council – 6 April 2011

'This Council supports the excellent work of the Yorkshire Heart Centre at Leeds General Infirmary, and notes with concern the unit's limited inclusion in NHS proposals for the national reconfiguration of children's cardiac surgery services.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Health in order to call for the retention of these vitally important surgical services in Leeds. It also recognises the ongoing efforts of Leeds MPs to lobby the Secretary of State to the same effect.'

Letter and response attached.

Leeds City Council – 14 September 2011

'That this Council notes with concern the ongoing discussions regarding the proposed reconfiguration of children's cardiac surgery services and the devastating effect this could have on the Yorkshire Heart Centre at Leeds General Infirmary and the families of this region.

The Council supports the demands of the cross party Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Yorkshire and Humber for the Government to re-examine the way in which the decision is being made and ensure that the democratic process is not being ignored.

Council therefore urges the government to confirm that all available information will be examined before a decision is made which could force parents from Yorkshire to travel hundreds of miles should their children need cardiac treatment.'

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – 27 July 2011

'This Council recognises the expertise in Children's Cardiac Services which has been built up by the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) based at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). LTHT also supports outreach clinics at Rotherham Foundation Trust (RFT) which are used by approximately 300 children each year:

The Council wishes to register its opposition and serious concerns at the potential loss of the Children's Cardiac Unit in Leeds which would have a devastating impact on those children requiring the specialist services provided by the facility.

The Council resolves to work with all relevant stakeholders to campaign to retain specialist children's cardiac surgery in the region and to inform the Secretary of State for Health of our views.'

Sheffield City Council – 6 July 2011

That this Council

- (a) notes the NHS Safe and Sustainable Review into the way that children's congenital heart surgery services should be provided in the future*
- (b) is concerned by the likely closure of the surgical centre at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) as the only such unit in the Yorkshire and Humber region*
- (c) is also concerned by the implications of this likely closure for critically ill children and their families in Sheffield who use this service*
- (d) resolves to continue to raise the profile of this issue locally to make the people of Sheffield aware of the knock-on effect of this closure*
- (e) fully supports maintaining the paediatric cardiac surgery unit at the LGI for the continued benefit of sick children and their families in Sheffield*

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council – 30 March 2011

Letter attached (dated 15 April 2011). Advised that no response received.