

From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health



POC1_613235

Kersten England
Chief Executive
City of York Council
The Guildhall
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YO1 9QN

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 3000
Mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk

24 MAY 2011

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Kersten'.

Thank you for your letter dated 21 April about retaining the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary.

I have taken note of your concerns. However, the *Safe and Sustainable* review of children's heart surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups that commission specialised services, such as children's heart surgery, across England. I have, however, been following its progress.

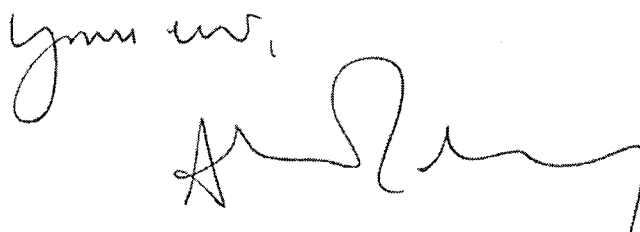
The reasons they are carrying out the review are to improve services for patients in terms of safety, sustainability, outcomes and excellence of care for children. The review was instigated as a result of increasing concerns held by surgeons, other clinicians and NHS commissioners over a number of years about the risks posed by the unsustainable nature of having smaller surgical centres.

The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that children's heart surgery units in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease. From my knowledge of the process, it appears to me that it has been very much clinically driven.

I would like to reiterate that no decision has yet been made on the location of children's heart surgery units. The proposed options for

children's congenital heart services are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. This is an open consultation and it is not pre-determined. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision in Autumn 2011.

I would like to encourage you and other members of the City of York Council to respond to the consultation. I understand that there are public consultation events during the four-month consultation period. More information about the events and consultation can be found at: http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley', written in a cursive style.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE

Mr T Riordan
Chief Executive
Leeds City Council
3rd Floor
Civic Hall
LEEDS LS1 1UR

Our Ref CE/LAN
Your Ref
Date 13 May 2011

Dear Tom

Children's Cardiac Services in Yorkshire And The Humber

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 2011 concerning the national review of Children's Cardiac Services and the options included within that review for consultation purposes.

This matter has already been considered by the Council in the form of the following Notice of Motion presented to its meeting held on 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 NHS proposals for the national reconfiguration of Children's Cardiac Surgery Services.

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

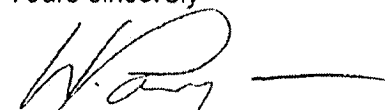
The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Health in order to call for the retention of the vitally important surgical services in Leeds".

In debating the issue, the Council shared the City's concern over the potential loss of the Children's Cardiac Unit and the impact both locally and regionally of this. Members also discussed the transfer times and network issues to which you refer, were cardiac services to be sited in Newcastle and also the personal consequences of this in terms of children's care and the additional burden for families faced with commuting during a period of already intense pressure and stress.

I am pleased to say that the Council supported the motion unanimously, and I have now written to the Secretary of State for Health calling for the retention of Children's Cardiac Services in Leeds in line with the requirements of the approved motion.

I will of course keep you informed of progress.

Yours sincerely



Wallace Sampson
Chief Executive
chiefexecutive@harrogate.gov.uk

Office of the Chief Executive

Mr A Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2NS

Our Ref CE/LAN
Your Ref
Date 13 May 2011

Dear Mr Lansley

Children's Cardiac Services in Yorkshire and the Humber

The extensive national review of Children's Cardiac Services across England has put forward four options for consultation aiming to consolidate Children's Cardiac Services into six or seven locations. As you are aware, Children's Cardiac Services are currently provided in Yorkshire and the Humber by the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. I understand that the National Review Team assessed all Children's Cardiac Services, including Leeds to be "safe". However, retaining the Leeds provision is only one of the four options being put forward in the public consultation. The preferred option places Children's Cardiac Services in Newcastle, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leicester, Bristol and two sites in London.

This region benefits from a comprehensive range of co-located services for adults and children, with Leeds being the only centre in the North of England to fulfil every child and adult inter-dependency. Leeds has pioneered clinical networks in this area and the majority of regional work has been adopted as national guidelines.

In response to the consultation exercise and concerns over the potential loss of Children's Cardiac Services, the Council, at its meeting held on 13 April 2011, considered the following Notice of Motion:-

"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.

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".

In debating the motion, Members of the Council were conscious of the great number of children and families within the Harrogate District, the region and from other parts of the country benefiting from the expertise held by the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Continued ...

Office of the Chief Executive

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13 May 2011

Children's Cardiac Services in Yorkshire and the Humber

Council also raised concern over the transfer times, were such services to be lost in favour of Newcastle and the additional anxiety and stress that would be faced by families and their children in commuting to Newcastle, a city itself not well served by a motorway network.

Following debate, the motion was unanimously approved by all Members of the Council and in accordance with its wishes I am, therefore, calling for the retention of these vitally important surgical services in Leeds.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wallace Sampson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Wallace Sampson
Chief Executive

chiefexecutive@harrogate.gov.uk

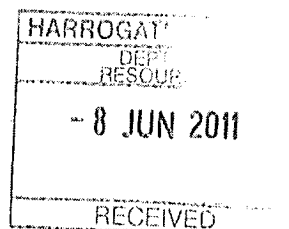
From the Rt Hon Simon Burns MP
Minister of State for Health



Your Ref: CE/LAN

PO00000616648

Mr Wallace Sampson
Chief Executive
Harrogate Borough Council
Council Offices
Crescent Gardens
Harrogate HG1 2SG



Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Tel: 020 7210 4850

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Burns'.

06 JUN 2011

Thank you for your letter of 13 May to Andrew Lansley on behalf of Harrogate Borough Council about the children's cardiac surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The *Safe and Sustainable* review of paediatric cardiac surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups that commission specialised services, such as paediatric cardiac surgery, across England. The Department of Health has been following its progress.

The *Safe and Sustainable* review was instigated as a result of increasing concerns held by surgeons, other clinicians and NHS commissioners over a number of years about the risks posed by the unsustainable nature of having smaller surgical units. The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that paediatric cardiac surgery services in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease, as have the proposed service standards.

I understand the Council's concern about the provision of continuity of care. Clinicians working in the service and their professional associations have identified the quality benefits of working in larger surgical centres, carrying out a larger numbers of procedures. This is not incompatible with maintaining continuity of care, such as a child continuing to see the same surgeon over their lifetime. A concentration of expertise facilitates research into the different

techniques and thus encourages sharing of best practice. More importantly, though, it ensures better cover in an emergency and less need for transfer of children between centres.

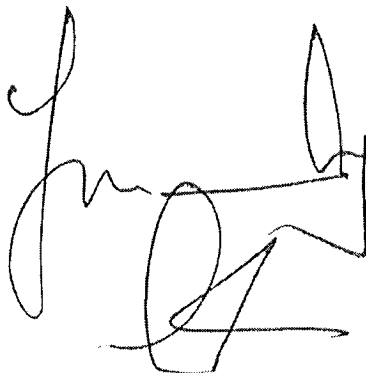
I am advised that travel times analysis has been used in the development of the options. There is a minimal impact on journey times for most families for the four options that are being consulted on. However, many children do not have access to the routine follow-up care service locally at present and have to travel longer distances unnecessarily to receive this care from a surgical unit. The proposed model of care will ensure that all children have access to a paediatrician with expertise in cardiology locally and that all follow-up routine care is provided closer to patients' homes.

I would like to highlight that there are no proposals to close any of the units. Surgery may cease at some units in the future but the aim is that these units will continue to provide specialist, non-interventional paediatric cardiac services for their local populations.

No decision has yet been made on the location of paediatric cardiac surgery units. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process, which closes on 1 July. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which is overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision this autumn.

I would like to encourage you to respond to the consultation. More information about the consultation can be found at www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk by following the links.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Burns', with a stylized, cursive script.

SIMON BURNS

Name of meeting: Annual Council

Date: 25 May 2011

Title of report: Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary and Adopted by Council

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan</u> ?	No
Is it eligible for "call in" by <u>Scrutiny</u> ?	Not applicable - item for information only
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	16 May 2011, David Smith, Director of Resources
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	No financial implications
Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	No legal implications
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

For Council to note the response from the Department of Health to the Council's Motion on Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit.

2. Key points

Council, at its meeting on 23 March 2011, approved and adopted the following Motion:-

"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 pre-determine 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."

A response to the Motion has been received from the Department of Health, as set out below:-

Thank you for your letter of 25 March to Andrew Lansley about the Children's Heart Surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary. I have been asked to reply.

The *Safe and Sustainable* review of children's heart surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups which commission specialised services, such as children's heart surgery, across England.

The purpose of the review is to improve services for patients in terms of safety, sustainability, better outcomes and excellent care for children. The review was instigated as a result of increasing concerns held by surgeons, other clinicians and NHS commissioners over a number of years around the risks posed by the unsustainable nature of having smaller surgical centres. The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that children's heart surgery units in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease.

I am advised that travel times analysis has been used in the development of the options. There is a minimal impact on journey times for most families for the four options that are being consulted on. Many children, however, do not have access to the routine follow-up care service locally at present and have to travel longer distances unnecessarily to receive this care from a surgical unit. The

proposed model of care will ensure that all children have access to a paediatrician with expertise in cardiology locally and that all follow-up routine care is provided closer to patients' homes.

No decision has yet been taken on the location of children's heart surgery services. The proposed options for children's heart surgery units are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which is overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision this autumn.

I would like to encourage you to respond to the consultation. I understand that there are public consultation events during the four-month consultation period, including two in Leeds on Tuesday 10 May at the Royal Armouries Museum. More information on these events and the consultation can be found at www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk by following the links.

I hope this reply is helpful.

3. Implications for the Council

None applicable to this report.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council notes the response, which is for information only.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable.

7. Next steps

None applicable to this report.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Adrian Johnson: 01484 221712
Email: adrian.johnson@kirklees.gov.uk

Background Papers: Letter dated 14 April 2011 from the Department of Health.

9. Assistant director responsible

Vanessa Redfern, Legal, Governance and Monitoring

DOC871A (160511)

25 March 2011

Our Ref: MAJ/PAW/DOC838A

Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Dear Secretary of State

Resolution Passed by Kirklees Council in relation to Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit - Leeds General Infirmary (LGI)

At a meeting of the Kirklees Council held on 23 March 2011 the following resolution was passed:-

"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 pre-determine 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."

Our Ref: MAJ/PAW/DOC838A

- 2 -

I would welcome your response in due course in order that I may report back to the Council accordingly.

As requested by the Council resolution I am copying this letter to Kirklees Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully

Adrian Johnson
Governance Officer

c.c. Michael R Wood MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Jason McCartney, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Simon Reevell MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Barry J Sheerman MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Mary Creagh MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Your ref: MAJ/PAW/DOC838A

Our ref: TO00000605259



Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Tel: 020 7210 4850

Mr Adrian Johnson
Legal and Governance
Kirklees Council
Second Floor
Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield
HD1 2TG

14 April 2011

Dear Mr Johnson,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March to Andrew Lansley about the Children's Heart Surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary. I have been asked to reply.

The *Safe and Sustainable* review of children's heart surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups which commission specialised services, such as children's heart surgery, across England.

The purpose of the review is to improve services for patients in terms of safety, sustainability, better outcomes and excellent care for children. The review was instigated as a result of increasing concerns held by surgeons, other clinicians and NHS commissioners over a number of years around the risks posed by the unsustainable nature of having smaller surgical centres. The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that children's heart surgery units in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease.

I am advised that travel times analysis has been used in the development of the options. There is a minimal impact on journey times for most families for the four options that are being consulted on. Many children, however, do not have access to the routine follow-up care service locally at present and have to travel longer distances unnecessarily to receive this care from a surgical unit. The

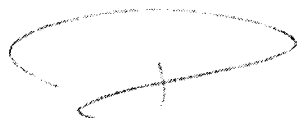
proposed model of care will ensure that all children have access to a paediatrician with expertise in cardiology locally and that all follow-up routine care is provided closer to patients' homes.

No decision has yet been taken on the location of children's heart surgery services. The proposed options for children's heart surgery units are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which is overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision this autumn.

I would like to encourage you to respond to the consultation. I understand that there are public consultation events during the four-month consultation period, including two in Leeds on Tuesday 10 May at the Royal Armouries Museum. More information on these events and the consultation can be found at www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk by following the links.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Nebel
Customer Service Centre

Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Tom Riordan
Chief Executive
3rd Floor
Civic Hall
Leeds LS1 1UR

Tel: 0113 247 4554
Minicom: 0113 247 4000
Fax: 0113 247 4870
tom.riordan@leeds.gov.uk

Our reference: **let188/TR/MW**

13 April 2011

RESOLUTION OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

I write to inform you that Leeds City Council at a meeting of the Full Council on 6th April 2011 passed the following resolution:

“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.”

I would be grateful if you could consider the views of Leeds City Council as expressed in the resolution.

Tom Riordan
Chief Executive

Nigel Richardson/S. Sinclair

(TR)

From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health



POC1_611755

Your Ref: let188/TR/MW

MR. T. RIORDAN
25 MAY 2011
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 3000
Mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Tom Riordan
Chief Executive
Leeds City Council
3rd Floor
Civic Hall
Leeds LS1 1UR

Also cc to Andy Koch →
Group leaders.

24 MAY 2011

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 April about retaining the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary. Councillor Terry Grayshon also wrote to me on 28th April 2011 about this. I have also replied to his letter.

I have taken note of your concerns. However, the *Safe and Sustainable* review of children's heart surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups that commission specialised services, such as children's heart surgery, across England. I have, however, been following its progress.

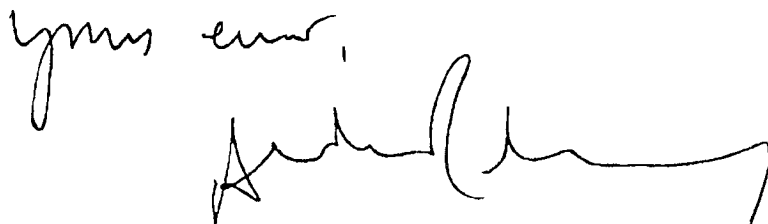
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The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that children's heart surgery units in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease. From my

knowledge of the process, it appears to me that it has been very much clinically driven.

I would like to reiterate that no decision has yet been made on the location of children's heart surgery units. The proposed options for children's congenital heart services are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. This is an open consultation and it is not pre-determined. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision in Autumn 2011.

I would like to encourage you and other members of Leeds City Council to respond to the consultation. I understand that there are public consultation events during the four-month consultation period. More information about the events and consultation can be found at: http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley', written in a cursive style.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE

Copy of letter from Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley, MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW12A 2NL

15 April 2011

Dear Mr Lansley

CHILDREN'S CONGENITAL HEART SERVICES – NHS CONSULTATION

I write in response to the NHS public consultation on the way children's congenital heart services should be provided in the future. The Council of the City of Wakefield at its meeting held on 30 March 2011, debated the issues arising from the consultation document with particular regard to the excellent services currently provided at Leeds General Infirmary.

Members of Council in debating the options for reconfiguring the services noted that the current service provided at Leeds General Infirmary only featured in one option, option D.

Members of Council were unanimously of the view that should any other option be pursued which would result in the closure of the Leeds Specialist Unit, there would be a huge gap in provision from Birmingham or Leicester in the south, Newcastle in the north and Liverpool to the west. The implications of such a decision would mean children from Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and Northern Lincolnshire having to travel long distances for treatment putting additional strain and costs on families. Council was also concerned that as specialism's were lost in the region, there would also be an adverse impact on adult cardiology services.

Members noted that Leeds General Infirmary was at the forefront of work on inherited cardiac conditions holding an excellent record for providing safe, high quality children's heart services. The centralised unit operating from a single site at the Leeds General Infirmary, currently serves a population of some 5.5 million people in the Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and Lincolnshire regions which is one of the highest population coverage's of all units in England.

The Council respectfully asks that there concerns and support to retain specialist children's congenital heart services at Leeds General Infirmary are taken into account as part of the consultation and decision making processes and that a favourable outcome will result.

Yours sincerely