

Chronology of events

2001 – Following a high number of deaths of children receiving heart surgery in the 1990s the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry report is published (the Kennedy Report) and recommends that specialist expertise is concentrated in fewer surgical units in England.

2003 - A further report was published by the Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Services Review Group comprising experts in the field. It also published recommendations for fewer, larger surgical units but recommendations were not acted upon by Ministers at the time.

2006 - An extraordinary national meeting of children's heart surgeons and cardiologists (from each of the 11 surgical centres), other clinicians, commissioners, and patient representatives. It concluded that children's heart surgery services as currently provided in England were not sustainable.

2007 - The Royal College of Surgeons of England called for fewer, larger paediatric cardiac surgical centres in an independent report.

May 2008 - The National Specialised Commissioning Team was asked by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh (NHS Medical Director) to undertake a review with a view to the reconfiguration of the current 11 surgical centres. He did so in response to long-standing concerns raised by doctors and parent groups. The *Safe and Sustainable* team was established to manage the review process on behalf of the ten Specialised Commissioning Groups and their local PCTs.

December 2008 - The expert clinical Steering Group was established under the chairmanship of Dr Patricia Hamilton, Immediate Past President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The Steering Group was initially tasked to steer the process of developing a report to the NHS Management Board and Ministers.

September 2009 – Draft quality standards against which surgical units would be assessed were published for comment. They were sent directly to all OSCs and LINKs in England as well as other relevant organisations. These comments, where appropriate, influenced the final version of the standards, published in March 2010.

22 October 2009 - National stakeholder event with more than 200 participants. The outcome of this meeting influenced the development of the quality standards and model of care.

March 2010 – The final version of the quality standards was published.

March 2010 – The child heart surgical unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, was suspended following a number of deaths after surgery

April 2010 - The centres self-assessed against the standards, setting out compliance with the quality standards.

April 2010 - The case for change is set out in '*Children's Heart Surgery – the Need for Change*'

May 2010 to June 2010 – An expert panel chaired by Professor Sir Ian Kennedy visits each surgical centre to meet with staff and families and to assess the each centre's ability to comply with the proposed national standards.

June 2010 – Secretary of State approves recommendation for the establishment of a Joint Committee of PCTs

June 2010 - The revised NHS Operating Framework confirmed that the *Safe and Sustainable* review was expected to deliver recommendations for consultation in the autumn of 2010

June to July 2010 – Pre-consultation engagement events across England for NHS staff, parents, patients and public:

- Leicester - 9 June 2010
- Birmingham - 14 June 2010
- Oxford - 15 June 2010
- Warrington - 16 June 2010
- Leeds - 17 June 2010
- Southampton - 21 June 2010
- Plymouth - 28 June 2010
- Bristol - 29 June 2010
- Newcastle - 1 July 2010
- London - 3 July 2010

July 2010 – First meeting of the JCPCT (as a proposed but not yet fully constituted body)

August 2010 – A separate review by South Central SHA recommends that the paediatric cardiac surgical service at the John Radcliffe Hospital remains suspended pending the outcome of *Safe and Sustainable*

September 2010 – National Clinical Advisory Team supports the case for change

November 2010 - Briefings for OSCs in person by the SCGs

November 2010 – On behalf of the JCPCT a panel of experts chaired by Mr James Pollock (a consultant congenital cardiac surgeon) investigates historical deaths at three surgical units (Leeds, Leicester and Evelina) in response to an analysis of mortality data published by the *Sunday Telegraph*. The outcome of these reviews is presented to Professor Sir Ian Kennedy's expert panel to consider whether it is necessary to revise its assessment of any of the three centres.

December 2010 – The report of the Kennedy panel is published.

December 2010 – Engagement event with members of the British Congenital Cardiac Association

February 2011 - The JCPCT meets in public to agree options for consultation

February 2011 - Briefing for OSCs to inform them about the launch of consultation and proposals

1 March 2011 - The launch of a four-month public consultation

March 2011 - The Board of the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust brought a judicial review against the JCPCT in response to the JCPCT's preference for two surgical units in London, rather than three units.

June 2011 – Key emerging findings from the Health Impact Assessment published and sent to OSCs and LINKs, and published on the review's website before the consultation closes

June 2011 – Backbench Business Committee Debate was held in the House of Commons

1 July 2011 – Public consultation ends

July 2011 – Second engagement event with members of the British Congenital Cardiac Association

August 2011 - Ipsos MORI published the independent analysis of the consultation and the report from the focus groups with parents, young people and BAME communities. Mott MacDonald published the draft final HIA.

September 2011 - Independent expert panel chaired by Adrian Pollitt OBE reviews the relationship of interdependencies at the Royal Brompton Hospital. The panel advised the JCPCT that children's respiratory services would remain viable at the Royal Brompton Hospital if children's heart surgery services were moved.

September 2011 – The Steering Group considers clinical issues raised during the consultation and advises the JCPCT to agree the quality standards and model of care as set out in the consultation document.

October 2011 – At the JCPCT's request the Kennedy panel publishes a supplementary report in response to issues raised during consultation.

5 October 2011 – Consultation closes for OSCs.

14 October 2011 - The Yorkshire and the Humber JHOSC refers the consultation to the Secretary of State for Health

7 November 2011 – The Judgement in the judicial review is delivered and on 24 November, the JCPCT lodges appeal against it. Although the Court rejected most of the Brompton's arguments it found against the JCPCT on a point of process which the judge conceded had no material bearing on the JCPCT's choice of consultation options. With the public support of professional associations and national charities the JCPCT has mounted an appeal with a request for an expedited hearing. The papers were lodged in November 2011.

November 2011 - The JCPCT invited all 11 centres providing children's congenital heart services to submit new evidence demonstrating their compliance with the national quality standards relating to 'innovation and research'.

23 February 2012 - Following a referral to the Secretary of State for Health by Yorkshire and Humber Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), the Secretary of State accepted the IRP's advice.

14 February 2012 – An independent panel of clinicians, led by Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, reviewed the additional evidence in relation to 'innovation and research'. Eight Trusts chose to submit new evidence. Two have seen a change to their score for research and innovation with Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust moving from 1 (inadequate) to 2 (poor) and the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust moving from 2 (poor) to 3 (adequate).

19 and 20 March 2012 - Court of Appeal heard the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts' (JCPCT) appeal on the future of children's congenital heart services.

27 March 2012 – The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea refers the consultation to the Secretary of State for Health.

16 April 2012 – Deadline for the public to submit their comments on an independent report on family travel analysis which had been commissioned by the JCPCT from PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The Secretary of State for Health accepted the IRP's advice that the report should have been published before the deadline for submission of responses to consultation. The responses are published on the *Safe and Sustainable* website

19 April 2012 – The Court of Appeal delivers a judgement. The JCPCT is successful on its appeal as the Judges find that the consultation was carried out lawfully.

15 June 2012 – The Secretary of State accepted the IRP's advice that the referral from the Kensington and Chelsea OSC should not proceed to the full review.

23 June – Debate in the House of Commons about the Safe and Sustainable

4 July 2012 – The JCPCT made a decision on the health services for children with congenital heart disease at the meeting in public.

JCPCT meetings in private

- 7 July 2010
- 28 July 2010
- 1 September 2010
- 28 September 2010
- 11 January 2011
- 30 June 2011
- 27 July 2011
- 25 October 2011
- 17 November 2011
- 14 December 2011
- 22 February 2012
- 23 April 2012
- 12 June 2012

JCPCT meetings in public

- 16 February 2011
- 4 July 2012