

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1. Meeting:	Health Select Commission
2. Date:	14 July 2011
3. Title:	Update: Specialist Children's Heart Surgery; Consultation
4. Directorate:	Chief Executive's All wards

5. Summary

Safe and Sustainable – the NHS review into the future of children's congenital heart services in England proposed to change the current service model. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees are being consulted as part of the statutory consultation process. This report updates members of the Health Select Commission of developments.

6. Recommendations

That the Health Select Commission:

- a. agrees that the nominated members from the former Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel continue in their role for the duration of this review;**
- b. comments on the report and refers any concerns/issues regarding the review of children's cardiac services to the Rotherham Council representative on the Regional Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- c. notes the Cabinet response to the consultation;**
- d. receives further updates of progress.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The proposals set out in Safe and Sustainable - A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England consultation document, are the outcome of a national review process. The four month public consultation period closed on July 1st 2011.

In summary, it is proposed that the reconfigured Congenital Heart Networks across England that would comprise all of the NHS services that provide care to children with Congenital Heart Disease and their families, from antenatal screening through to the transition to adult services. However, in doing this there will be a reduction in the number of NHS hospitals in England that provide heart surgery for children from the current 11 hospitals to 6 or 7 hospitals in the belief that only larger surgical centres can achieve true quality and excellence.

Safe and Sustainable consulted on the following areas:

- Standards of care: proposed national quality standards of care to be applied consistently across the country
- Congenital heart networks: development of networks to coordinate care and ensure more local provision (e.g. assessment, ongoing care)
- The options: the number and location of hospitals that provide children heart surgical services in the future
- Better Monitoring: improvements for analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data

The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future are:

Option A: Seven surgical centres at:	Option B: Seven surgical centres at:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freeman Hospital, Newcastle• Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool• Glenfield Hospital, Leicester• Birmingham Children's Hospital• Bristol Royal Hospital for Children• 2 centres in London¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freeman Hospital, Newcastle• Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool• Birmingham Children's Hospital• Bristol Royal Hospital for Children• Southampton General Hospital• 2 centres in London¹

¹ The preferred two London centres in the four options are Evelina Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

Option C: Six surgical centres at:	Option D: Six surgical centres at:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeman Hospital, Newcastle • Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool • Birmingham Children's Hospital • Bristol Royal Hospital for Children • 2 centres in London¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds General Infirmary • Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool • Birmingham Children's Hospital • Bristol Royal Hospital for Children • 2 centres in London¹

Currently Rotherham children with serious congenital heart problems are referred to Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust for treatment, based at Leeds General Infirmary. LTHT also supports outreach clinics at Rotherham Foundation Trust (RFT). Colleagues from RFT estimate that approximately 300 children use the clinic in Rotherham per year.

Leeds only features in 1 of the four options for service configuration. If closed, it is proposed that Rotherham children and families will receive services from one of the following: Newcastle, Birmingham or Leicester. Alternative proposals for configuration of services can be put forward.

7.2 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Involvement

7.2.1 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees² are being consulted as part of the statutory consultation process and because it affects more than one Local Authority area, this is being coordinated in Yorkshire and Humber through a Joint Committee (chaired by a Member from Leeds City Council). There has been two meetings of the Joint Committee to date (minutes and papers are available on-line). Further meetings are planned with various representatives from health bodies and patients/parents groups from across the region to gather evidence to inform the Committee's formal response to the consultation. Information is also being sought by the Committee in respect of patient flow and a health impact assessment of the proposals on the region's population. This information is expected shortly.

It should be noted that the period for Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to respond to the consultation has been extended to October 5, 2011.

² Under Rotherham's previous overview and scrutiny arrangements, health scrutiny responsibilities were delegated to the former Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel if they relate to children's health matters

7.2.2 The former Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel (in its health scrutiny role) nominated one member from Rotherham Council (Cllr Shaukat Ali) to be part of this joint committee. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel also formed a small member working group consisting of Cllrs Ali, Falvey and Sims to inform Rotherham's input to the process.

7.2.3 All Council Members have been previously contacted by email for their views on the proposals. These have been used to inform questions to witnesses and lines of inquiry. It is suggested that any further comments/concerns from the Health Select Commission are referred to the member working group for Cllr Ali to raise with the regional committee. Further updates of progress will be submitted to this committee in due course.

7.2.4 As the members of the working group are familiar with the issues and have undertaken considerable work meeting with parents, MPs and local clinicians, it is proposed to continue with these arrangements for the duration of the review.

7.3 Local Discussions

7.3.1 Given the complexity and sensitivity of the issue, the working group held an initial meeting with colleagues from Rotherham Foundation Trust and NHS Rotherham to discuss how the proposals may impact upon local services.

In particular, concerns have been raised about the following:–

- access to facilities for Rotherham children and families, particularly in emergency or acute situations;
- sustainability of local clinics;
- retention and future development of specialist skills;
- sustainability of intensive care facility at Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust should it no longer be a specialist facility.

7.3.2 A further meeting was held with local parents of children with congenital heart diseases who have accessed services in Leeds. Whilst many of the concerns reflected the views of clinicians, further questions were asked about:

- lengthy 'blue light' journeys across busy road networks;
- support networks for children and their carers and increased disruption and costs, particularly for families on low incomes, if services are re-located;
- collocation of services and whether sufficient emphasis had been placed on the benefits of this in the review;
- transition to adult services.

- 7.3.3** The working group also met with local MPs to inform them of the health scrutiny process and share information. In addition, the views of Youth Cabinet were sought. Their concerns mirrored many of the issues previously raised.
- 7.3.4** Considerable media interest has been generated both locally and nationally. The local press has been contacted by Cllr Ali to seek the public's views on the proposals. In addition, a regional charity, the Children's Heart Surgery Fund has held a number of meetings throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region, including Rotherham.
- 7.3.5** Discussions have also taken place with other South Yorkshire Health Scrutiny support to ascertain any joint areas of concern to feed into the regional consultation.

7.4 Cabinet Response

The Cabinet has responded separately to the consultation, opposing the closure of Leeds as a surgical centre. The response is attached as Appendix A

8. Finance

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

9. Background Papers and Consultation

Safe and Sustainable - A New Vision for Children's Congenital Heart Services in England: Consultation Document

<http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/document/safe-sustainable-a-new-vision-children-s-congenital-heart-services-in-england-consultation-document>

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

14th March, 2011:

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5146&x=1>

29th March, 2011:

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=793&MId=5149&Ver=4>

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