

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
HEALTH AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**The National Safe and Sustainable Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services
including Glenfield Hospital – Scrutiny Review of the Decision made on 4th July 2012 to
move services from Leicester to Birmingham.**

Purpose and Scope of Inquiry

The purpose of the Scrutiny inquiry is to assess the evidence regarding the decision made on the 4th July 2012 by the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) to move the Children's Heart Surgical and ECMO services from Glenfield Hospital in Leicester to Birmingham.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee has the power to scrutinise and comment on the decisions of all NHS bodies of functions on a strategic basis or which affect the areas of the three authorities.

The scope of this inquiry is for the Scrutiny Committee to gather specific areas of evidence based on Andrew Lansley's four key tests for reconfigurations:

- There should be clarity about the clinical evidence base underpinning the proposals;
- They must have the support of the commissioning GPs involved;
- They must genuinely promote choice for their patients; and
- The process must have genuinely engaged the public, patients, and local authorities.

Evidence gathering will include:

- a) Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) represented by Sir Neil McKay and Catherine Griffiths
- b) Public support represented by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LINKs
- c) Clinical and Legal representation by University Hospitals of Leicester Trust (UHL)
- d) Specialised Research and Training support represented by Leicester University and International Clinicians/Experts
- e) Leicester City Health and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission

Reason for the Review

Members of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee are extremely concerned that the decision made on 4th July is not in the best interest of the local health service and the population it services.

Outcome of the Review

The Committee will determine whether or not there is appropriate evidence to support a formal referral to the Secretary of State for Health.

Timetable for the Review

4th September 2012 – LLR JHOSC 1st review meeting planned to gather evidence
October 2012 – LLR JHOSC 2nd review meeting planned to gather evidence
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to agree further timetable for review and next steps

Recommendation

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to establish a Project Management Team of expertise to support this inquiry (the Project Team to include Chair and Vice-Chair, UHL officers, Glenfield Clinicians, Legal support officers, City and County support officers).

Background

On 4th July 2012 the Joint Committee Primary Care Trust (JCPCT) announced the outcome of the Safe and Sustainable review into children's heart surgery. The East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre, based at Glenfield Hospital was not one of the seven designated centres chosen. The JCPCT made a decision to transfer the Glenfield Children's Heart Surgery to Birmingham Children's Hospital in 2014.

On 13th July 2012 Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health endorsed designating Birmingham Children's Hospital for the paediatric respiratory ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation). Currently Glenfield Hospital runs the UK's largest ECMO unit, which is world-renowned.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust is now considering the "legal and clinical" reasons behind the decision made, and reviewing the 2000 page document. The findings of the UHL Trust Board review will be made public August 2012, these findings will be presented to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4th September 2012.

The team at Glenfield, the parents, the stakeholders and all members of the public who have fought so hard and for so long are disappointed with this decision. Campaigners fighting to save the children's heart unit took a 100,000 signature petition to Downing Street before the decision was made, and now a new online petition opposing the closure has been set up.

Local MPs have continued to show their support and on July 17th 2012 there was a live Parliamentary debate about children's heart surgery and JCPCT decision.

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee have agreed to consider a review to determine whether or not there is appropriate evidence to support a formal referral to the Secretary of State for Health.

The LLR JHOSC has written to the Secretary of State for Health on 23rd August 2012, setting out its intentions.