

7th October 2013

FAO – CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE SERVICES REVIEW TEAM, NHS ENGLAND

SUBJECT - Comments from Leicester City Council, RE: Proposed Scope and Interdependencies Paper

We welcome the opportunity to feed in our comments on the document outlining the scope of the review.

These are our brief comments:

1. The approach overall seems sensible and we recognise that there is a need for expert clinical advice on the issues raised in the document.
2. Following a life course approach to define the services that are in scope is a necessary requirement of the review's purpose – to consider the whole lifetime pathway of care for people with congenital heart disease.
3. The excluded services, those not intrinsically linked to the treatment of congenital heart disease itself, as in the out of scope list, but which are used by patients with congenital heart disease or related to services for them, require robust pathways for access. Thus detail of the managed linkages to be made in the course of the review with these services is to be welcomed.
4. Expert advice on the inclusion or exclusion of the items on the “to be decided” list is essential. Bearing in mind the issues of the previous “Safe and Sustainable” review it would also be essential to provide an explicit rationale for the final position taken regarding these items. In particular, we would support the inclusion of ECMO from the outset, as from the evidence we took during our scrutiny process it is apparent that ECMO is an essential part of the treatment of congenital heart disease in children.

Many thanks,

Councillor Michael Cooke
Chair of Health & Wellbeing SCRUTINY Commission
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

7th October 2013.