

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

18 AUGUST 2016

Extracts of decisions taken by Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council on Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital

Leicester City Council passed the following motion at the Council Meeting held on 14 June 2016:-

"This Council strongly supports the work of the Children's Cardiac Services specialist centre of national excellence based at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester and expect the services to be retained, consolidated and further developed to the benefit of the City, County and the Region. That the Health and Wellbeing Board collaborates with other authorities and interested organisations to make representations to NHS England and the Government to oppose the decision to cut these specialist services which are vital to hundreds of children.

This Council resolves to refer this matter to the Health Scrutiny Commission of Leicester City Council and to request that a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meets to consider this matter and proceeds to make a formal referral to the Secretary of State for Health as per the powers set out in The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013."

Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet considered a report at its meeting on 18 July and the published minute is set out below.

The link to the papers/minutes of the meeting is:-

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4604&Ver=4>

465. Urgent item - Children's Heart Surgery at Glenfield Hospital.

Minutes:

The Cabinet considered an urgent joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health concerning NHS England's intention to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital. The report was urgent because the announcement was made by NHS England after the agenda for the meeting had been published and a response needed to be made at the earliest opportunity. A copy of the report, marked '13', is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that since the report was circulated the NHS had published a rationale for its decision and further communication from the NHS was expected.

Mr. White CC said that NHS England's decision was simply wrong. Glenfield had excellent services and, he believed, would be able to demonstrate some of the best clinical outcomes in the country. He paid tribute to local MPs and Cllr. Palmer (Deputy Mayor of Leicester City Council) who had also voiced concerns. Mr. White said the County Council clearly wished the highest quality services to be provided and evidence showed that Glenfield Hospital was doing this. He reminded members that the County Council could refer such issues to the Secretary of State and noted that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider the matter at its next meeting.

Mr. Ould CC, as the Cabinet lead member for children and young people, added his full support for the recommendations as amended.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the intention of NHS England to cease the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital, which will have serious local and regional implications and to do so ahead of NHS England's previously published timetable to address standards by 2021 is deplored;
- (b) That the failings of the communications used by NHS England to inform families, staff and stakeholders of its intention that children's heart surgery will no longer take place at Glenfield are to be regretted;
- (c) That the Cabinet does not believe there is evidence to substantiate NHS England's claim that to cease commissioning is "in the best interests of patients with congenital heart disease and their families";
- (d) That the rebuttal letter sent by the Chief Executive of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to NHS England is supported totally;
- (e) That full support is offered to the NHS Trust in fighting NHS England on this matter, if necessary through the courts, and in establishing robust local opposition to NHS England's proposal which, if implemented, would see the end of a world class service;
- (f) That the resolution of the Cabinet be conveyed to local MPs and that their already stated concern at the proposal from NHS England be welcomed;
- (g) That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider a report on the implications of the announcement on both the Glenfield Hospital and the wider NHS at its meeting on 14th September 2016.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To note the announcement made by NHS England, which will have implications on the wider health and care economy of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, as well as the East Midlands as a whole.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for scrutinising the exercise by health bodies of functions which affect the County and is also able to make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies.

The Director of Public Health has a responsibility to advise the County Council on matters relating to health and he is in agreement with the position taken by UHL.