

Please ask for: Councillor Rory Palmer
Tel: 0116 4540002
Our ref: 2016/JULY/JH/RP/MH
Date: 13 July 2016



Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Will Huxter
Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning
NHS England
Mezzanine Floor
Southside
105 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QT

Dear Secretary of State and Mr Huxter

I am writing on behalf of Leicester City Council in the strongest possible terms to ask that the recent announcement by NHS England to end the commissioning of children's heart surgery at Glenfield Hospital in Leicester is reviewed and reversed.

The East Midlands Congenital Heart Unit at Glenfield is securing excellent clinical outcomes which compare extremely well with the best performing centres nationally and it is very likely data to be published later this year will show that clinical outcomes at Glenfield are amongst the best in the country. CQC have also acknowledged the strength of these clinical outcomes in a recent inspection:

'We noted the excellent clinical outcomes for children following cardiac surgery at Glenfield Hospital.'

UHL are on track to meet the standard number of surgery cases each year and have invested in staff and facilities to support this. I also concur with the literature review carried out for NHS England which John Adler, Chief Executive of University Hospitals of Leicester cites in his representations to NHS England, that the 125 cases per surgeon per year should not be seen as some 'magic number' nor should it be understood to be as scientifically credible as some would suggest.

The wider and knock-on implications of children's heart surgery stopping at Glenfield should not be underestimated. The potential implications include losing more than half of the paediatric intensive care beds available in Leicester (important not just for Leicester but for the wider region); possible reductions and risk to other children's medicine services including general surgery; ear, nose and throat services; foetal and respiratory services; children's cancer services and neonatal units. Young patients from across the East Midlands and beyond need these services.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CITY MAYOR
Rory Palmer

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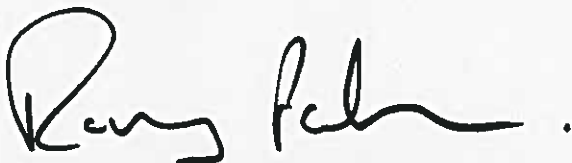
The decision to cease children's heart surgery at Glenfield would also mean the pioneering and vital ECMO service would also become unviable. Taken together, the impacts of this decision can only be described as catastrophic for children's medicine in Leicester and our wider region. That is not hyperbole. I have enclosed the letter from John Adler, CEO of UHL to NHS England which sets out what this will mean for the trust.

On behalf of Leicester City I want to be clear that we agree with every word of John Adler's assessment of this situation and its potentially disastrous implications.

I also want to make clear that Leicester City Council is exploring all possible avenues to challenge this decision and to seek its reversal and will be doing all we can to support UHL, patients, families and campaigners to secure the future of the vital East Midlands Congenital Heart Unit at Glenfield.

At the very least we expect this decision to be subject to full public consultation.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR RORY PALMER
DEPUTY CITY MAYOR AND CHAIR, LEICESTER HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

CC:

John Adler, CEO UHL
Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor
Councillor Vi Dempster, Chair Health Scrutiny Committee Leicester City Council
Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the House of Commons Health Select Committee
Jon Ashworth MP (Leicester South)
Liz Kendall MP (Leicester West)
Rt. Hon Keith Vaz MP (Leicester East)
Councillor Nick Rushton, Leader Leicestershire County Council
Councillor Terry King, Leader Rutland County Council
Edward Argar MP (Charnwood)
Andrew Bridgen MP (Leicestershire North West)
Alberto Costa MP (South Leicestershire)
Rt. Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP (Rutland and Melton)
Rt. Hon Sir Edward Garnier MP (Harborough)
Rt. Hon Nicky Morgan MP (Loughborough)
David Tredinnick (Bosworth)
Councillor Martin Hill, Chairman East Midlands Councils
All members Leicester Health & Wellbeing Board

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