

9 September 2016

Councillor Rory Palmer
Deputy City Mayor and Chair, Leicester Health & Wellbeing Board
3rd Floor
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

Dear Rory

Congenital Heart Disease services

Thank you for your letter of 25 August, following the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board on 18 August.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the Board, and to provide information for members and the public on NHS England's proposals for change in relation to congenital heart disease services at Glenfield Hospital.

I thought it would be helpful to confirm a few key points in relation to the standards, the approach we are taking, and our discussions with UHL:

- The national standards that NHS England is using to assess providers against were developed with expert advice from clinicians from the CHD community, including from Leicester, and with charities, patients and stakeholders. They command wide support, and set out the key elements of an excellent service, that will be resilient and sustainable for people across the country now and into the future.
- We have made no final decisions about our proposals. We are now undertaking pre-consultation engagement, and public consultation will follow; decisions will be taken after the conclusion of consultation.
- Our assessment of UHL, based on the evidence that they have provided, is that the Trust does not now meet all of the standards, in particular in relation to surgical activity (in total and by surgeon) and paediatric co-location; and the Trust has not provided us with a plan demonstrating that it will meet these standards in the required timescale.

- We are talking to UHL about how the standards can be met, including a meeting we have scheduled for 16 September.

As mentioned in your letter, I committed to provide some additional information that was requested at the meeting. To take each of these in turn:

- Evidence in support of the standards: a briefing on this is attached, from the meeting of the NHS England Board (held in public) in July 2015.
- Patient and public involvement representatives on the national panel: a list of all members of the national panel is included as an appendix to this letter.
- Public consultation arrangements, including PPI involvement: these are still being worked up, informed by pre-consultation engagement.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



Will Huxter
Regional Director or Specialised Commissioning (London)

Appendix 1: Members of the National Panel

The members of the panel that carried out the assessment are listed below. Their role was to assess each hospital's ability to meet the standards. They were not responsible for deciding what action to take. That decision (which is a minded decision not a final decision) was taken by NHS England.

Panel Chair

- Will Huxter, Programme SRO, NHS England

Patient and Public

- Michael Cumper, Nominated CRG PPE representative
- Suzie Hutchinson, Nominated CRG PPE representative

Clinical

- Professor Deirdre Kelly, Chair, Clinician Engagement and Advisory Group
- Dr Jackie Cornish, Women and Children POC Board
- Dr Trevor Richens, Chair, Congenital Heart Services CRG

National Commissioning / Programme (NHS England)

- Anthony Prudhoe, Accountable Commissioner
- Ben Parker, CHD Programme Team
- Cathy Edwards, Operational Delivery Director (National), Specialised Commissioning
- Michael Wilson, Programme Director
- Richard McMahon, Quality Surveillance Team
- Teresa Fenech, Director Of Nursing for Specialised Commissioning

Regional Commissioning (NHS England)

- Dr Alison Rylands, Regional Clinical Director for Specialised Commissioning (North)
- Catherine O'Connell, Regional Director Specialised Commissioning (Midlands and East)
- Hazel Fisher, AD Programme of Care & NW London Locality Lead (London)
- Dr Vaughan Lewis, Regional Clinical Director for Specialised Commissioning (South)