



General Meeting

15th February 2017

Congenital Heart Disease Services Impact on East Midlands Congenital Heart Disease Centre

Summary

This report updates the General Meeting of East Midlands Council on the latest position regarding the NHS England's proposals for Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Services, which impact on the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre (EMCHC), formerly known as Glenfield Hospital. In July 2016, NHS England stated that it was minded to decommission CHD surgery from EMCHC, without any commitment to full public consultation. The continuation of CHD surgery and interventional cardiology at the EMCHC would make it a 'Level 1' centre. In October 2016, NHS England conceded that public consultation would be required and the consultation would take place from mid-December 2016.

After delaying the start of the consultation period from mid-December 2016, NHS England has now stated that it has received clearance from the Department of Health to run consultation through the local government purdah period.

In the meantime, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL), which manages the EMCHC, has been continuing to work to achieve the standards set by NHS England as part of the commissioning process.

Recommendation

Members of East Midlands Councils are invited to:

- Confirm the support of East Midlands Councils for the continuation of Level 1 Congenital Heart Disease Services at the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre, in particular supporting the work undertaken by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to meet the required service standards.
- Consider NHS England's statement that it may consult from early February 2017 onwards, which will continue during the local government purdah period.

1.0 Announcement by NHS England – 8 July 2016

- 1.1 On 8 July 2016, NHS England issued an announcement, which included the following statement:

*"Subject to consultation with relevant Trusts and, if appropriate, the wider public, NHS England will also work with **University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust** and Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust to safely transfer CHD surgical and interventional cardiology services to appropriate alternative hospitals. Neither **University Hospitals Leicester** or the Royal Brompton Trusts meet the standards and are extremely unlikely to be able to do so. Specialist medical services may be retained in Leicester."*

- 1.2 On 15 July 2016, NHS England published *Paediatric Cardiac and Adult Congenital Heart Disease Standards Compliance Assessment: report of the National Panel*, which is available at the following link: -

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/07/chd-national-panel-report.pdf>

- 1.3 In effect NHS England signalled in July 2016 that it would be decommissioning Level 1 Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) services from the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre (EMCHC), formerly known as Glenfield Hospital, which is part of University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL). Level 1 centres will provide the most highly specialised diagnostics and care including surgery and most interventional cardiology. As part of the network arrangements, they would be supported by Level 2 centres (specialist care, but no surgery or interventional cardiology); and Level 1 centres (accredited services in local general hospitals – initial diagnosis and monitoring).

2. Developments Since July 2016 – Consultation

- 2.1 The immediate concern in July 2016 was that NHS England would not be holding public consultation. This issue was raised immediately by local authority health overview and scrutiny committees. In October 2016, NHS England confirmed via a local authority briefing paper that there would be full public consultation beginning in mid-December 2016. However, on 23 November 16 a blog posted on the NHS England website indicated consultation would now begin early in 2017.
- 2.2 On 21 December 2016, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire sought, but did not receive clarification on the consultation dates from the representatives of NHS England who attended the Committee's meeting. In a written statement from NHS England on 17 January 2017, the Committee was advised that 'clearance had been provided by the Department of Health [to NHS England] to run consultation during purdah'. The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire authorised the Chairman to raise this matter by letter with the Secretary of State for Health, which was sent on 24 January 2017. NHS England has indicated to the Leicester, Leicestershire and

Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee that consultation might begin in early February.

- 2.3 The activities of the health overview and scrutiny committees in the region since July 2016 are summarised in Appendix A.

3.0 Standards for Congenital Heart Disease Services

- 3.1 On 23 July 2015, following consultation during 2014, the NHS England Board approved the Standards and Specifications for Congenital Heart Disease. There are approximately two hundred standards. From these, three are highlighted as most challenging (and also contentious):

- A minimum of 125 surgical procedures per surgeon averaged over three years;
- four surgeons at each Level 1 Centre; and
- the co-location of children's CHD services with other paediatric services.

4.0 Re-Submission of Self-Assessment Submission of information by UHL.

- 4.1 The report *Paediatric Cardiac and Adult Congenital Heart Disease Standards Compliance Assessment: report of the National Panel* was based on the data submitted in March and April 2016. UHL submitted a revised self-assessment in November 2017, which is available at the following website, on which UHL has published all the correspondence between itself and NHS England:

<http://www.eastmidlandscongenitalheart.nhs.uk/our-campaign/>

5.0 Recommendation

Members of East Midlands Councils are invited to:

- 5.1 Confirm the support of East Midlands Councils for the continuation of Level 1 Congenital Heart Disease Services at the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre, in particular supporting the work undertaken by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to meet the required service standards.
- 5.2 Consider NHS England's statement that it may consult from early February 2017 onwards, which will continue during the local government purdah period.

Simon Evans
Health Scrutiny Officer
Lincolnshire County Council

**ACTIVITIES BY OTHER HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
IN THE EAST MIDLANDS**

Derbyshire Health Scrutiny Committee

The Derbyshire Health Scrutiny Committee met 23 January 2017 was attended by Alison Poole and Simon Robinson from the EMCHC (Glenfield). NHS England has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee on 6 March and both a national and regional officer will be attending.

Having received the presentation from EMCHC, Derbyshire Health Scrutiny Committee is keen to support the retention of services at Glenfield, especially as its closure would leave the East Midlands as the only region without such a facility. At this stage the Committee is keen to exhort NHS England to allow and assist EMCHC to take steps to reach the "500 procedures" target, including encouraging more referrals from local consultants to the EMCHC as opposed to centres located further afield.

This will be put to NHS England when they attend the meeting on 6 March, following which there is an intention for a formal response to the proposals to be submitted to NHS England by the Derbyshire Health Scrutiny Committee.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has had one meeting which considered the pre-consultation engagement proposals at the end of September, with UHL in attendance and they outlined their concerns against the proposals. The Committee recorded their concerns on the proposals and urged NHS England to reconsider its plans to close the Glenfield Hospital Congenital Heart Unit.

There were a number of concerns raised such as the timetabling of the process, the impact on neonatal services on the region, the lack of consideration of travel time to Birmingham or other units in the country, lack of concerns raised previously about the unit, the lack of recognition as to how successful the Glenfield Unit has been performing (underlined by the current CQC report), the destabilising effect of these proposals on the hospital, the fact that alternative proposals offered by UHL had not been considered, there would be no specialist centre on the eastern side of the country between Newcastle and London and that factual inaccuracies in their assessment of Glenfield had been accepted but not been taken into consideration.

The Joint Committee then agreed that they would reconvene a meeting when the consultation goes live, which we have been informed by NHS England is likely to be the first couple of weeks in February, with a meeting planned in March should the consultation go live. The views of NHS England, UHL and involving interested parties including parents, carer groups, young people, and representatives of the wider public would be able to put forward their view to the committee.

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire considered NHS England's July 2016 announcement statement on 20 July 2016 and sought clarification from NHS England on what its intentions were in relation to consultation. The Committee cited the relevant regulations and the fact that any decision to decommissioning CHD surgery and interventional cardiology from the East Midlands Congenital Heart Centre would constitute a substantial variation and development of health care provision in Lincolnshire. The correspondence with NHS England did not immediately elicit a commitment for public consultation.

Representatives of NHS England attended the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire on 21 December 2016. The original purpose of their attendance would have been to present the consultation document, which had been expected to be published in mid-December. The representatives attended as part of a pre-consultation engagement exercise. They were challenged on their intentions and the assumptions used to decommission CHD surgery and interventional cardiology. They were also advised of the local government purdah period, affecting county councils from the end of March 2017. NHS England could not give a commitment to the consultation dates, other than referring to a consultation exercise in early 2017. They were invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee on 18 January, but declined and are due to attend on 15 March 2017.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is leading on the scrutiny of changes to congenital heart disease services for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire area. In September 2016 the Joint Committee was informed of the NHS England announcement about the future of congenital heart disease services and gave initial consideration to the information available at that time about the implications for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents arising from proposed changes to services provided at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the East Midlands Congenital Heart Disease Centre in Leicester. The Committee wanted further information about both the proposals and the consultation process, which was not available at that time. Since then the Committee has kept up to date with information that has been published and local developments, including information provided by University Hospitals Leicester at an informal meeting of health scrutiny chairs from the East Midlands in December. Representatives of NHS England are scheduled to come to the Committee's meeting on 14 March 2017 as part of the consultation process.