

Name of meeting: Annual Council

Date: 25 May 2011

Title of report: Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary and Adopted by Council

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	No
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	Not applicable - item for information only
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	16 May 2011, David Smith, Director of Resources
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	No financial implications
Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	No legal implications
Cabinet member portfolio	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

For Council to note the response from the Department of Health to the Council's Motion on Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit.

2. Key points

Council, at its meeting on 23 March 2011, approved and adopted the following Motion:-

"This Council notes with concern the potential closure of the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Leeds General Infirmary, as a result of the

Department of Health's 'Safe and Sustainable' review of Children's Heart Surgery Units.

The closure of the Leeds Unit, which serves a large population centre, will have a severe impact on Yorkshire families, including those living in Kirklees, and would mean that parents with sick children would have to travel to Newcastle, Liverpool or Leicester, to receive the essential treatment currently provided in Leeds. This will cause extreme difficulty as a result of the distances families will have to travel, at a time of high anxiety about their child's health.

This Council recognises that a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is currently meeting to fully consider the proposals for children's congenital cardiac surgery services. Whilst not wishing to pre-determine the findings of that review, nevertheless this Council wishes to express serious concerns about the impacts of removing services from the Leeds area. These concerns to be forwarded in a letter to the Department of Health with copies to all MP's within the Kirklees area.

This Council also requests that representations be made on behalf of the Council as part of the Department of Health's consultation exercise in support of the retention of the Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit."

A response to the Motion has been received from the Department of Health, as set out below:-

Thank you for your letter of 25 March to Andrew Lansley about the Children's Heart Surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary. I have been asked to reply.

The *Safe and Sustainable* review of children's heart surgery units in England is being carried out within the NHS by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the ten regional groups which commission specialised services, such as children's heart surgery, across England.

The purpose of the review is to improve services for patients in terms of safety, sustainability, better outcomes and excellent care for children. The review was instigated as a result of increasing concerns held by surgeons, other clinicians and NHS commissioners over a number of years around the risks posed by the unsustainable nature of having smaller surgical centres. The aim of *Safe and Sustainable* is to ensure that children's heart surgery units in England deliver the very highest standard of care for children and their families well into the future. The development of the proposed model of care has been led by many clinicians directly involved in the care and treatment of children with congenital heart disease.

I am advised that travel times analysis has been used in the development of the options. There is a minimal impact on journey times for most families for the four options that are being consulted on. Many children, however, do not have access to the routine follow-up care service locally at present and have to travel longer distances unnecessarily to receive this care from a surgical unit. The

proposed model of care will ensure that all children have access to a paediatrician with expertise in cardiology locally and that all follow-up routine care is provided closer to patients' homes.

No decision has yet been taken on the location of children's heart surgery services. The proposed options for children's heart surgery units are currently being consulted on. Patients and the public have the opportunity to make their views known during the formal public consultation process which closes on 1 July. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, which is overseeing the consultation, will consider an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and a health impact assessment. The Committee is expected to make a decision this autumn.

I would like to encourage you to respond to the consultation. I understand that there are public consultation events during the four-month consultation period, including two in Leeds on Tuesday 10 May at the Royal Armouries Museum. More information on these events and the consultation can be found at www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk by following the links.

I hope this reply is helpful.

3. Implications for the Council

None applicable to this report.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Council notes the response, which is for information only.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable.

7. Next steps

None applicable to this report.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Adrian Johnson: 01484 221712
Email: adrian.johnson@kirklees.gov.uk

Background Papers: Letter dated 14 April 2011 from the Department of Health.

9. Assistant director responsible

Vanessa Redfern, Legal, Governance and Monitoring

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