

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director Responsible for Democratic Services

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	19 November 2014
Subject:	Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications – A Consultation

Summary:

On 15 September 2014, NHS England launched a national consultation on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications. The consultation document is attached to this report. John Holden, the Director of Systems Policy, from NHS England, is due to attend the Committee to present information on the proposals in the document. The Committee is asked to establish a working group to draft and finalise a response to the consultation, the closing date for which is 8 December 2014.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached consultation document on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications.
- (2) To receive information from John Holden, the Director of Systems Policy, at NHS England on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications.
- (3) To establish a working group to respond to the consultation document, and to authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to finalise the Committee's response, following the meeting of the working group.

1. Background

Launch of Consultation Document

On 15 September 2014, NHS England launched a national consultation on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications. The consultation document is attached to this report as Appendix A.

John Holden, the Director of Systems Policy, from NHS England is due to attend the Committee to present information on the proposals.

Local Authority Engagement

As part of its development of the standards and service specifications, NHS England has engaged widely with clinicians and service users. Their engagement has also included two engagement events aimed at local authority and local Healthwatch representatives. The first of these took place on 8 January 2014 in Birmingham. The second engagement event took place also in Birmingham on 9 October 2014. The Chairman attended each event.

Consultation Questions

There are twelve consultation questions in the consultation document, which are reproduced below:

- (1) *Will the draft standards and service specifications meet the aims of the Congenital Heart Disease review?*
- (2) *What do you think of the model of care that we are proposing?*
- (3) *What do you think about our proposals for Level 2 Specialist Cardiology Centres?*
- (4) *What do you think of our proposals for the development of networks?*
- (5) *What do you think of our proposals for staffing Congenital Heart Disease Services?*
- (6) *What do you think of our proposal that surgeons work in teams of at least four, each of whom undertakes at least 125 operations per year? Please explain your answer.*
- (7) *What do you think about our proposed approach to sub-specialisation?*
- (8) *What do you think of the proposed standards for service interdependencies and co-location?*
- (9) *What do you think of the proposed service specifications?*
- (10) *To ensure that we work within the available resources, difficult decisions may need to be made. What parts of our proposals matter most to you?*
- (11) *Do you have any comments on the range of approaches proposed to ensure that the standards are being met by every hospital providing Congenital Heart Disease care?*
- (12) *Is there anything else that you want to tell us or ask us to consider? If your comments relate to a particular standard or section please specify which you are referring to.*

During the pre-consultation activity, there has been significant discussion on three particular issues:

- the number of surgeons at each centre;
- the minimum number of operations undertaken by each surgeon each year; and
- the co-location of congenital heart services with other paediatric services

Consultation questions 6 and 8 cover these three issues.

Responding to the Consultation

The Committee is asked to establish a working group to draft and finalise a response to the consultation, the closing date for which is 8 December 2014. The Working Group would be expected to meet on one occasion.

Previous Committee Involvement and Historic Background

The previous consultation exercise on children's congenital heart services, which took place in 2011 (entitled *Safe and Sustainable*), was referred to the Secretary of State for Health by the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire on 27 July 2012. In addition, there were two further referrals to the Secretary of State: firstly by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 September 2012; and secondly by the Yorkshire and the Humber Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 November 2012. All three referrals were passed to Independent Reconfiguration Panel for a full review.

In a separate development a judicial review of the *Safe and Sustainable* consultation by Save Our Surgery Ltd, a Leeds-based charity, finally resulted in a Court of Appeal decision on 24 April 2013 to quash the decision made on 4 July 2012 to close several children's heart surgery centres.

The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) published its full review of the *Safe and Sustainable* process on behalf of the Secretary of State and made a total of 15 recommendations. This was published on 12 June 2013. The recommendations of the IRP are set out in Appendix B. Recently, NHW England prepared a paper on how it had reflected the IRP's recommendations. This document is attached at Appendix C

In June 2013, the NHS England Board resolved to start with a fresh review of congenital heart services for both children and adults. The attached consultation document is the product of the fresh review.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to consider the attached consultation document on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications; to receive information from John Holden, the Director of Systems Policy, at NHS England on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications; and to establish a working group to respond to the consultation

document, and to authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to finalise the Committee's response, following the meeting of the working group.

3. Consultation

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is being requested to respond to a consultation by NHS England on the Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications. The Committee is being asked to establish a working group to draft and finalise a response to the consultation, the closing date for which is 8 December 2014.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposed Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specification
Appendix B	Summary and Recommendations from the Report of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on the Safe and Sustainable Review of for Children's Congenital Heart Services (Published 12 June 2013)
Appendix C	New Review of Congenital Heart Services – Lessons Learned from the Safe and Sustainable review and the recommendations made by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (NHS England November 2014)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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