

### Introduction

In September 2010 the *Safe and Sustainable* review will make recommendations for a reduced number of children's heart surgery centres in England. There are currently 11 centres in England (see [Appendix A](#)). The review is led by the National Specialised Commissioning Team on behalf of the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups.

### Professional and Lay Support

The review has support from the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Royal College of Nursing, the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery of Great Britain, the British Congenital Cardiac Association and the Children's Heart Federation.

### The Need for Change

The review is in response to concerns that the current configuration of services is not sustainable and does not provide all children in England with the same opportunity for excellent care:

- Not all centres can provide safe 24/7 cover
- Surgical expertise is spread too thinly across centres
- Risk of occasional practice around some complex procedures
- Risk that smaller centres may lead to less favourable outcomes for patients
- Smaller centres will experience recruitment difficulties; robust succession planning will be difficult, increasing the risk of unplanned and sudden closure of some centres

### Likely Changes

The quality framework against which centres will be assessed for designation as specialist providers of children's heart surgery services in the future are likely to state that each centre must:

- Provide a 24/7 service
- Be staffed by a minimum of 4 consultant paediatric cardiac surgeons
- Perform a minimum of 400 paediatric surgical procedures each year, and ideally a minimum of 500 paediatric surgical procedures each year

The assessment process will not just focus on surgeon numbers and procedure volumes. It will take a holistic assessment of each centre, in particular focusing on the degree to which they meet the standards for designation, and the ability of each centre to expand, grow, and take forward a world class service into the future. Other important issues will be taken into account, including travel times, geography and access for parents.

### Implications of Reconfiguration

It is likely that the *Safe and Sustainable* review will recommend a reduction in the number of centres that provide children's heart surgery services. No key decisions have yet been made on the number or location of services in the future pending the outcome of a comprehensive assessment of each centre to be undertaken between May and June 2010, and pending the outcome of formal consultation between October 2010 and January 2011.

Although this will mean that some children and their families will have to travel a longer distance for surgery, they will not have to do this for other aspects of care (such as assessment, diagnostic tests, follow-up and ongoing management). The review will recommend a new 'network model' of care that facilitates the delivery of all non-surgical and non-interventional paediatric cardiology care as locally as possible.

### **Benefits for Children and Families**

The *Safe and Sustainable* review aims to develop a new national service that brings the following benefits for children and their families:

- Better clinical outcomes in the surgical centres (reduced mortality and reduced complications)
- Better follow up and other (non-surgical) treatment provided as close as possible to where the family lives

This will be achieved by the implementation of a quality framework that will be consistently applied in all surgical centres and that will achieve the following:

- Improved communication and planning between surgical centres and local services that links care in an effective network model
- A model of care that plans and deliver services around the needs of the child and which takes account of the transition to adult services
- Protocols between surgical centres and local maternity services that provides for early pre-natal screening and arrangements for delivery babies diagnosed with heart abnormalities
- Better access to surgical centres and local services, regardless of where the child lives
- An NHS workforce that is highly trained and expert in the care and treatment of children and young people

### **Progress to Date**

- A Steering Group has been established, chaired by Dr Patricia Hamilton, Immediate Past President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (see [Appendix B](#) for membership)
- Quality standards have been developed, providing a national quality framework for the future
- Stakeholders have been engaged, the outcome of which has fed into the development of the standards

### **Future milestones**

- Centres to self assess against designation standards and submit plans for future expansion – March 2010
- Local engagement events – from May 2010
- Assessment of centres against designation criteria, including on-site visits – May to July 2010 (see [Appendix C](#) for review panel members)
- Recommendations for reconfiguration and the pre-consultation business case are put out for public consultation – September to December 2010.
- Outcome of consultation is considered – from January 2010
- Decision expected (dependent on outcome of consultation) – March 2011

The pre-consultation business case will set out:

- The objectives to be achieved
- The case for change in line with best clinical evidence
- Recommendations for the future configuration of the national service
- The appraisal of options, including the implications of no change
- The patient group affected by the recommendations and the benefits to service delivery and patient experience
- Other NHS services affected by the recommendations and a plan for addressing the implications of reconfiguration
- The workforce and training implications of the recommendations and how they will be addressed
- That the financial implications are affordable and how they will be addressed
- How stakeholders have been involved in developing the recommendations
- The outcome of Health Impact Assessments, Equality Impact Assessments and Travel Time Assessments
- An analysis of patient flows
- Cross boundary issues facing service provision for the devolved administrations that are affected by commissioning decisions in England
- An implementation plan

### **Engagement with Stakeholders**

In October 2009 a national stakeholder event was held, attended by 200 clinicians, professional association and parent groups. 95% of attendees said that the event was well organised, relevant and provided plenty of opportunity for debate. A large part of the day was spent discussing the draft quality framework that had been circulated for comment in September 2009. Video excerpts of the day are available on the NSC Team website ([www.specialisedcommissioning.nhs.uk](http://www.specialisedcommissioning.nhs.uk)). Further local engagement events are currently being developed for commencement from May 2010.

The NSC Team has issued two newsletters (summer and winter 2009) and has made available all relevant literature, including minutes of meeting, on its website.

### **Support of stakeholders**

There is overwhelming support for *Safe and Sustainable*.

The following organisations support the review:

British Congenital Cardiac Association  
Children's Heart Federation  
Paediatric Intensive Care Society  
Royal College of Nursing  
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health  
Royal College of Surgeons of England  
Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland

## Specialised Healthcare Alliance

The Children's Heart Federation reports that the majority of parents are supportive of travelling further to specialist centres of expertise that deliver better care. However, the concerns of parents who live very close to one of the existing centres will be heard and addressed during the review.

### **Engagement with Health Overview Scrutiny Committees**

The NSC Team has been working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CPS) to keep HOSCs informed of progress. The CPS has circulated relevant literature to HOSCs via existing networks.

In April 2010 the NSC Team, via the CPS, asked HOSCs with an interest in this review to establish a statutory joint HOSC in time for formal consultation activities.

END

## **Appendix A**

### **Current NHS providers of children's heart surgery services in England**

Freeman Hospital	Newcastle
Leeds Teaching Hospital	Leeds
Alder Hey Children's Hospital	Liverpool
Glenfield Hospital	Leicester
Birmingham Children's Hospital	Birmingham
Oxford John Radcliffe Hospital	Oxford
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children	Bristol
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	London
Royal Brompton Hospital	London
Evelina Children's Hospital	London
Southampton General Hospital	Southampton

**Appendix B** MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP ON SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY SERVICES (January 2010)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Role</b>
Dr Patricia Hamilton	Chair of the Steering Group	Director of Medical Education for England
Dr Martin Ashton-Key	Specialised Commissioning / Public Health	Public Health Medical Adviser, NSC Team
Mr William Brawn	British Congenital Cardiac Association (President)	Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Geoffrey Carroll	NHS in Wales	Medical Director, Health Commission Wales
Katherine Collins	NHS in Scotland	Programme Director, National Services Division
Steve Collins	National Specialised Commissioning Team	Deputy Director Policy and Coordination, NSC Team
Dr Sarah Crowther	South Eastern SCG Collaborative Zone	Chief Executive, Harrow PCT
Sue Dodd	Department of Health (observer)	Emergency & Acute Care Manager, Vascular Programme, Department of Health
Professor Martin Elliott	British Congenital Cardiac Association	Consultant Paediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
Deborah Evans	South Western SCG Collaborative Zone	Chief Executive, Bristol PCT
Jeremy Glyde	National Specialised Commissioning Team	Programme Manager, NSC Team
Dr Kate Grebenik	Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists	Consultant Anaesthetist, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Catherine Griffiths	Midlands SCG Collaborative Zone	Chief Executive, Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT
Mr Leslie Hamilton	Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland (President)	Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Maria von Hilderbrand	Patients and public	Independent Patient Advocate
Dr Sue Hobbins	Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health	Consultant Paediatrician, South London Healthcare NHS Trust
Dr Ian Jenkins	Paediatric Intensive Care Society (President)	Consultant Intensivist, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Anne Keatley-Clarke	Patients and public	Chief Executive, Children's Heart Federation
Candy Morris	Strategic Health Authorities	Chief Executive, South East Coast SHA
Teresa Moss	National Specialised Commissioning Team	Director of National Specialised Commissioning
Dr Sally Nelson	Public Health	Medical Adviser, South Central SCG
Dr Shakeel Qureshi	British Congenital Cardiac Association (President Elect)	Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Chris Reed	Northern SCG Collaborative Zone	Chief Executive, NHS North of Tyne PCTs
Dr Tony Salmon	British Congenital Cardiac Association (President)	Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
Fiona Smith	Royal College of Nursing	Adviser in Children and Young People's Nursing, RCN
Dr Graham Stuart	British Congenital Cardiac Association	Adult Cardiologist, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>NHS Northern Ireland</i>	

## Appendix C

### Professor Sir Ian Kennedy (Chair)

Sir Ian has a distinguished history in this field. He chaired the public inquiry into the care of children receiving heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary between 1984 and 1995. His landmark 'Kennedy Report' in 2001 highlighted fundamental flaws in the planning, delivery and management of paediatric cardiac surgical services and it made a number of recommendations around safety, medical competency and public involvement relevant to the NHS as a whole.

He was Chair of the Healthcare Commission from 2003 to 2009, after which he became Chair of the Kings Fund inquiry into the quality of general practice in England. In 2009 he also became Chairman of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

### Dr Michael Godman

Dr Godman is a retired Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist. He worked in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh until 1999, during which time he was also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Child Life and Health, and the Medical Director for the hospital.

From 1999 to 2008 he worked in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as Co-Chairman of the Department of Cardiac Sciences. He is Chairman of the Association of European Paediatric Cardiologists, and also President of the British Paediatric Cardiac Association.

### Maria von Hildebrand

Maria von Hildebrand has been working in patient and public involvement since 1995. She is the founder of Constructive Dialogue for Clinical Accountability, a national charity set up in partnership with patients, the public and clinicians. The objective of her work has been to improve the information exchange between health care professionals and patients, to ensure there is knowledge transfer and shared responsibility for the process of informed consent resulting in improved quality and safety outcomes for public benefit.

She has worked as a policy adviser to the Department of Health, including input to the National Service Framework for Children, the Every Child Matters Framework, the Paediatric Review for Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Services, as an independent patient advocate for both adult and paediatric Cardiac Audit Data Committees and the National Bowel Cancer Audit Prospectus Committee. In June 2009 she took up her current post as Patient and Public Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the Research Capability Programme.

### Dr David Mabin

Dr Mabin is a Consultant Paediatrician specialist in paediatric cardiology working for the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. He is

the Convenor for Paediatric Cardiology at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. He also sits on the British Congenital Cardiac Association Council and is Clinical Sub-Dean at the Peninsular Medical School in Exeter.

#### Mr James Monro FRCS

Mr Monro was a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon in the NHS until 2004. He was President of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland from 2000-2002, and during this time was co-chairman of the committee which produced the "Report of the Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Services Review Group". He was also heavily involved with the UK Central Cardiac Audit Database (CCAD). Mr Monro was President of the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery in 2003 and 2004 and founding Chairman of the EACTS Congenital Cardiac Surgical Committee.

#### Dr Neil Morton

Dr Morton is a Consultant in Paediatric Anaesthesia and Pain Management at Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow and a Senior Lecturer at University of Glasgow. He has specialised in paediatric cardiac anaesthesia since 1989. He is currently President of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland and Editor-in-Chief of the international Journal of Paediatric Anaesthesia.

#### Sally Ramsay

Sally Ramsay is registered as a children's nurse. Her NHS career culminated in 8 years as Director of Nursing in a children's hospital. For the past 7 years she has worked independently. Her work has included service and education reviews, preparing expert reports and writing standards and clinical guidance documents for the Royal College of Nursing.

#### Julia Stallibrass MBE

For the last 20 years Julia Stallibrass has worked in the NHS in various public health and commissioning roles, most recently as Head of Specialised Services Commissioning in the National Specialised Commissioning Team. She has also worked for the Department of Health where she was the policy lead for commissioning specialised services. Whilst at the Department of Health she produced the Carter Report on the 'Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services' (May 2006). She retired in 2009 and in that year she received an MBE for services to the NHS.