

Specialised Commissioning
London Region
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21 October 2016

Dear John Adler,

Following the July announcement of NHS England's proposals for congenital heart disease (CHD) services we are now in the pre-consultation engagement stage. We expect to launch public consultation in December on our proposals, as informed by our pre-consultation engagement.

Over the past few months we have been in conversation with those providers most affected by the proposed changes, and those discussions have consistently pointed to the need to understand the impact of the proposed changes. While these conversations have been very helpful in understanding the likely impacts in a qualitative way, I am writing to you now to ask for your help in quantifying these impacts. Through this process you therefore have a formal opportunity to tell us about the factors which you consider to be relevant when assessing the impact of the proposed changes on your patients, your staff and your organisation.

We have not attempted to provide an exhaustive list or to tightly define your response because we believe that you have the best understanding of what we need to know and we do not wish to restrict you in what you tell us. Because of this it is essential that you clearly explain the methodologies you have used to reach the various figures in your response and any conclusions you reach.

A more detailed description of our request for information is attached, but in summary I am seeking information relating to:

- Current CHD activity levels at each Trust and how this would change if our proposals were to be implemented (including where applicable the potential provision of level 2 services where level 1 services would no longer be provided)
- Current CHD capacity, and for those Trusts where activity would rise under our proposals, the additional capacity that could be provided
- The impact of our proposals on other interdependent services and facilities
- The financial and business impact on the Trust as a whole

- Workforce implications
- Equalities and health inequalities impact

Asking for this information is a requirement of NHS England as part of the preparation for consultation, and does not imply that decisions have already been taken. We have also been asked by providers, patients and other stakeholders to demonstrate how we would implement the proposals if agreed.

I have included with this letter our modelling of surgical patient flows should our proposals be implemented, based on an assumption that patients would use their next nearest centre as measured in journey time by car. For these purposes we are assuming that other congenital heart activity would follow the same pattern and that the surgical activity can be used to inform the proportion of other activity which may be expected to relocate to each centre should our proposals be implemented. If you consider that other assumptions would be more appropriate please indicate what and why in your response.

Although we have set out our proposals we continue to have an open mind, and commissioning decisions will not be taken until after we have completed a full public consultation. The information I am requesting is however necessary to allow stakeholders to take an informed view in responding to consultation.

We will provide telephone, WebEx or face to face support to answer any questions that arise from this process. This can be tailored to your requirements.

We are collecting this data nationally to ensure a fully consistent process but we are working closely with our regional colleagues as we consider your returns and our own analyses.

I would be grateful for your responses to be returned no later than close of business on **November 7th 2016**. Please send your response and direct any questions to the CHD Programme team via england.congenitalheart@nhs.net.

I am grateful for your continued assistance in helping to inform our consultation proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Huxter', with a stylized, cursive script.

Will Huxter

Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning (London Region)
SRO, CHD Programme