

## Motion for Council – 10 July 2017

### NHS Proposal to close the congenital heart unit at UHL Trust (Leicester)

#### Motion:

1. That this Council resolves to respond to NHS England's consultation on the closure of the congenital heart unit at Leicester opposing the closure for the following reasons:
  - i. The 120 "standards" identified by NHS England as the key to their rationale are not standards but measures and the singling out of number of operations per surgeon as the single most important "standard" is arbitrary.
  - ii. NHS England propose keeping open Newcastle yet Newcastle has fewer operations per surgeon than Leicester and a less robust plan for achieving the target.
  - iii. NHS England argue Newcastle is a special case because of the heart transplant work undertaken there but refuse to accept Leicester is equally a special case because of its position as national specialist in offering Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) on a mobile basis.
  - iv. There is no guarantee that Leicester will be able to offer Level 2 services (the Trust feels they will not, without the Level 1 provision) and as NHS England are also proposing closing services in Nottingham the entire East Midlands will be left without specialist CHD services as services will only be offered in Newcastle and London.
  - v. The modelling undertaken by NHS England on travelling times is seriously flawed being based on present patients and not geography (i.e. where future patients might live).
  - vi. Additional travelling time, and few overnight accommodation options near Birmingham Children's Hospital in particular, will put enormous pressure on families, especially siblings, and will disrupt schooling of these children even further.
  - vii. NHS England have produced no plan to show how the additional capacity will be created at centres which remain open if the proposals to close centres, especially Leicester, are taken forward.
  - viii. NHS England have taken no account of quality. Leicester's CHD Unit has been rated outstanding by CQC (the only one in the Country) and has the best survival rates of anywhere in the Country.
2. That this Council respond by letter before 17 July which is the closing date for the consultation.