

The National Congenital Heart Patient Charities

Co-location of Surgical/Specialist Centres

January 2010

There is concern that there is a gap in the process between the Safe and Sustainable programme dealing with paediatric cardiac surgical centres and the GUCH designation process via Specialist Commissioners and are anxious to move forward without delay focussing on what can be done rather than what might be more difficult.

We do not suggest that the two different processes be brought together, as there is a fear that this will merely further delay progress on both. However, we recognise the reliance in the GUCH designation criteria of the availability of congenital cardiac surgeons and the paediatric need for a sensible transition to adult services.

In this brief communication, we have considered the current centres, the geographical need and the patient numbers for England, taking into account (but not stating our opinion over) those for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The outcome of this consideration has enabled us to come to an opinion of where the paediatric surgical centres and the GUCH specialist centres should be co-located.

This opinion does not necessarily mean that there should not be additional centres recognised or designated and does not deal with the location of local GUCH centres or non-surgical paediatric centres, but confirms those which we consider need to be recognised or designated.

Paediatric Surgical Centre	GUCH Specialist Centre
Newcastle - Freeman Hospital	Newcastle - Freeman Hospital
Liverpool - Alderhey	Manchester – Royal Infirmary
Birmingham – Childrens Hospital	Birmingham – Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Bristol – Childrens Hospital	Bristol – Royal Infirmary
Southampton – General Hospital	Southampton – General Hospital
London 2 or 3 as determined out of Great Ormond Street, Evelina Children’s Hospital and Brompton	London 2 or 3 as determined out of Heart Hospital, St Thomas’s and Brompton

We believe that the recognition or designation of the above will be a major step toward achieving the joined up, lifelong service which the congenital cardiac patients need from prenatal screening to end of life. We repeat that this opinion does not mean that we are agreed that there should be no more, nor provides any opinion on the need or location of non-surgical paediatric or local GUCH centres.

This statement is by the Chairs and Chief Executives of:

Tiny Tickers, www.tinytickers.org

Little Hearts Matter, www.lhm.org.uk

Children’s Heart Federation, www.childrens-heart-fed.org.uk

GUCH Patients Association, www.guch.org.uk