



## 2. SUMMARY

We believe change is needed in the way in which children's congenital heart services are planned and delivered. Change will improve outcomes for children and ensure services are *SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE*.

Expert clinicians and parents have highlighted the need for change. This is what we are trying to achieve:

- Better and more accessible diagnostic services and follow up treatment delivered through congenital heart networks
- Better results in surgical centres with fewer deaths and complications following surgery
- Improved communication between parents and all of the services in the network that see their child
- Reduced waiting times and fewer cancelled operations
- A highly trained workforce expert in the care and treatment of children and young people with congenital heart disease
- Better training for surgeons and their teams to ensure the sustainability of the service in the future
- An excellent service that delivers modern working practices using innovative techniques and continuing research and development to advance the quality of care children receive

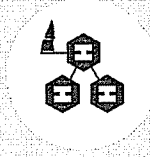
## WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

In order to make changes to the way services are organised the NHS wants to ask the public for its views. We would like to hear from anyone with a view on the future of congenital heart services including the people most affected: parents, young people and NHS staff. We would like your views on four main areas:



### STANDARDS OF CARE

The proposed national quality standards that have been developed to ensure higher standards of care can be provided consistently across the country. Are they the right standards?



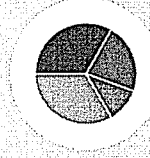
### CONGENITAL HEART NETWORKS

We are proposing that surgical centres are not just responsible for the care they provide but that they would lead a congenital heart network. These networks would coordinate services and strengthen existing local assessment services where they exist and develop more outreach support in areas that have been neglected in the past. Are congenital heart networks the right model of care to improve services for children and young people?



### LARGER SURGICAL CENTRES

We believe that the number of hospitals that provide heart surgery for children should be reduced from the 11 current centres to six or seven in response to evidence that suggests that only larger surgical centres can achieve true quality and excellence. Will fewer larger centres improve outcomes for children and young people?



### MEASURING QUALITY

We are recommending that new systems are implemented for the analysis and reporting of mortality and morbidity data relating to treatments for children with congenital heart disease. Do you agree that new systems should be implemented to monitor outcomes?

The options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services in the future are:

**OPTION A**

**SEVEN SURGICAL CENTRES AT:**

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

**OPTION B**

**SEVEN SURGICAL CENTRES AT:**

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Southampton General Hospital
- 2 centres in London

**OPTION C**

**SIX SURGICAL CENTRES AT:**

- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

**OPTION D**

**SIX SURGICAL CENTRES AT:**

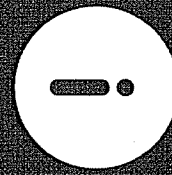
- Leeds General Infirmary
- Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- 2 centres in London

**LONDON**

**LONDON:**

The preferred two London surgical centres in the four options are:

- Evelina Children's Hospital
- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children



**Additionally, there are other recommendations for you to consider.**

This document sets out the way in which the proposals for change have been developed and what they would mean for you.

 On page 132 you will find details about how to give your view. The closing date for responses is 1 July 2011.