

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2014****POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE  
CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR HEALTH****New Congenital Heart Disease Review**

Members will recall that, following a successful referral from the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the decision to close the children's congenital heart unit at the Glenfield Hospital was overturned and a new review process was started.

I am pleased to be able to inform members that a new public consultation has just been launched on the standards that each hospital will have to reach to enable it to continue to deliver this vital service. These standards have been designed to improve patient outcomes and experience and to ensure consistency of care across the country. What I particularly welcome about the approach taken by NHS England to this review is that we are not starting from a position of closing units.

The consultation will run to 8<sup>th</sup> December. At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be making a formal response to the consultation. Any member can also respond individually to the consultation via

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/congenital-heart-disease-standards>

I think it is important that, as local politicians, we work with the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust to ensure that it now rises to the challenge of meeting these standards and retains this important service in the county. I will keep members informed on progress in this area and will certainly be doing all I can to support our local hospitals.

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