



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jeremy Glyde
Safe and Sustainable Programme Director
NHS Specialised Services
2nd Floor
Southside
105 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QT

28th June 2011

Dear Mr Glyde,

Re: Listen to Barnsley – Save Leeds Children’s Heart Unit

In response to the 'Safe' and Sustainable' Service Review into the future of children's heart services, on behalf of my constituents I would like to press the case for retaining the service at Leeds General Infirmary.

My constituents and I have been determined to fully participate in this consultation and there has been a lively debate across the local media in Barnsley, plus the issue has been discussed at a range of local meetings, including most recently at a formal round table I held in Hoyland in my constituency. Attending this meeting was Kevin Watterson, Heart Surgeon and Sara Matley, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, both Trustees of the Children's Heart Surgery Fund, as well as a number of former patients whose lives had been saved thanks to the brilliance of the clinicians and the care they received at the Leeds General Infirmary.

So my submission to your consultation is one that is rooted in real peoples' lives and real peoples' experiences. I believe that their evidence makes for a powerful and overwhelming case for retaining a Children's Heart Service in Leeds. Please listen to those Barnsley residents who have made their strong feelings known throughout this submission.

We all want better outcomes for children with congenital heart disease and the highest quality national children's heart service. I am fully aware that the aim of this Review is to drive up the quality of treatment and I understand the principles that lie behind favouring a reduction in the number of units to create hubs of excellence and pool surgical expertise. It is right that decisions are made that improve the service on a clinical basis. However, these decisions must also be made in consultation with patients, their families and staff and on the basis of other relevant facts such as population size, travel times and the need to ensure patients have proper family support during their care in hospital.

