

## Safe and Sustainable—The future of children’s heart services in the NE

Following a comprehensive national review of children’s heart services four options have been proposed to reduce the number of hospitals providing children’s heart surgery from 11 to six or seven to improve results for children. The Freeman Hospital part of the Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals in Newcastle is one of the 11 centres currently providing children’s heart surgery and is included in three of the four options.

All four options have now been put forward for public consultation and the NHS wants to hear people’s views before making a decision. The four-month consultation began on March 1 this year and will end on July 1.

### Option A – seven surgical centres

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

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

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

We are urging UNISON members and others to take part in the public consultation. It is in the best interests of us all that paediatric cardiac surgery stays within the North East and we need as many people to contribute to the public consultation to ensure we get the message across.

You can find out more information here

[http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe\\_sustainable/public-consultation-2011](http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/safe_sustainable/public-consultation-2011)

And the consultation can be completed here

<http://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/wix/p904445602.aspx>

[Save the surgical unit at the Freeman Facebook page](#)

[Keep the Freeman Children’s Heart Unit Open Facebook page](#)

[Chroniclelive](#) article [Gazettelive](#) article

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