

Independent Review of Children's Cardiac Surgery in Bristol

In February 2014 Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of NHS England, asked for an independent review of the paediatric cardiac service provided by Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. This followed concerns raised by some families about the quality of care their children received from the Trust.

NHS England has now published the [Terms of Reference](#) for the review, which will be led by Eleanor Grey QC with Sir Ian Kennedy acting as a Consultant Advisor.

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust welcomes the review process and we look forward to assisting the independent panel over the coming months.

Frequently Asked Questions – updated 2 June 2014

Please click on one of the questions below to find the answer you are looking for. If you have a question that is not provided below, please e-mail uhb@grayling.com.

Why is this review being carried out?

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How far back will the review look?

Who is leading the review?

Is the review relevant to me?

A member of my family is due to be cared for by the children's cardiac services at the Trust, and I have concerns, what can I do? (Who can I speak to at the Trust if I have questions about the care my child will receive?)

Does this have implications for other services offered by the Trust?

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Why is this review being carried out?

This independent review is being carried out at the request of Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of NHS England, following concerns raised by some families about the care provided by our children's cardiac service.

What is the review examining?

The Terms of Reference set out the four areas the review will be exploring in-depth:

- The environment of care - including staffing, staff skills, record-keeping and communication between staff
- Communication between the Trust and families
- The quality of care and compassion provided to families, with a particular focus on what support the Trust offers to families in cases of bereavement
- The culture of the Trust, including reporting processes, both internally and to relevant regional and national bodies

In addition to the review being led by Eleanor Grey QC, Mike Richards, Chief Inspector of Hospitals of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will request the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) to carry out further analysis of outcomes after surgery. The CQC will also carry out a clinical case note review. Further details are available in the full Terms of Reference [here](#).

How far back will the review look?

The review will include gathering evidence from a range of families about their experiences of Bristol's children's cardiac services since March 2010, when the national standards for children's cardiac surgical services were published.

Who is leading the review?

The review will be led by Eleanor Grey QC, an independent barrister, who was formerly Counsel to the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry. Professor Sir Ian Kennedy will act as Consultant Advisor to the review, for example providing general advice on the gathering of evidence and the review's recommendations. A team of independent experts will make up the rest of the review team and we will include a list of those names on this page once they are known. The review will publish its findings and recommendations, to be considered by NHS England, the Chief Inspector of Hospitals for the Care Quality Commission, and other relevant bodies with responsibilities for the delivery and regulation of services.

Is the review relevant to me?

The review will gather evidence from a range of families about their experience of Bristol children's cardiac service, since the publication of national standards in March 2010, to the date of the review. As soon as further details are known about how the review wants to communicate with families we will pass that on.

A member of my family is due to be cared for by the children's cardiac services at the Trust, and I have concerns, what can I do? (Who can I speak to at the Trust if I have questions about the care my child will receive?)

Our expert staff work tirelessly in the interests of every patient. The latest available validated data shows that the overall surgical survival rate for children's cardiac procedures at Bristol is 97.3%. These results are in line with outcomes at the other specialist children's heart centres. The expert clinical staff at Bristol continue to perform highly complex procedures on children and we would like to reassure family members and patients that we are operating a high-quality and safe service at Bristol.

We routinely survey parents whose child has been an inpatient on the cardiac ward. In our most recent survey, 99% said they had received excellent, very good or good care.

If you do have any concerns or questions for staff you can contact our Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery team on 0117 342 8332.

Does this have implications for other services offered by the Trust?

The Independent Review commissioned by NHS England is focused solely on children's cardiac surgery in Bristol. The Terms of Reference are available [here](#).

How long will this review take?

The duration of the review is yet to be announced.

How can I find out about progress with this review?

The Trust will be publishing updates about the review when there are significant developments. These will be published here on the Trust website.

How can I get involved in the review?

We will publish contact details here for how to get in touch with the review panel once those details are available. We expect there will also be a website for the review itself and we will provide a link to it once we have it.

What's the relationship between this review and NHS England's review of Congenital Heart Services?

The independent review led by Eleanor Grey QC is separate to NHS England's national review of congenital heart services. More information about NHS England's national review can be found [here](#).

The findings of the review led by Eleanor Grey QC may contribute to the emerging National Standards that are being developed as part of NHS England's national review.