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20 September 2016

Reference: BACCNA letter - 22/08/16

Dear Linda,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the British Adult Congenital Cardiac Nurse Association (BACCNA).

You raise the important issue of retaining our highly skilled workforce at a time of proposed change. We know the importance of skilled staff and the great work they do and we don't want to lose them. It is clear that whether it is in their current centre, or one close by, should services move following consultation, the skills and expertise of existing staff will be needed. All Trusts will already have in place policies on staff affected by change. In order to address the issues you raise, we will work with all affected Trusts to ensure that a joined up approach is taken, and to offer reassurance to staff whose jobs may be affected.

Ensuring that there are enough skilled staff will also form an important part of our conversations with providers that would, under the current proposals, be responsible in future for treating significantly more patients.

In those areas where more work needs to be done to develop a new model for the delivery of care we are encouraging all affected provider Trusts to support the involvement of their staff in this process. As you say this is essential to ensure that future services build on the best of what we already have to offer improved services for the future.

At this stage, no final decisions have been taken by NHS England. Final decisions will be taken by the NHS England Board after appropriate engagement, up to and including public consultation, and I would encourage you and the other members of BACCNA to take the opportunity to be fully involved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Wilson (CHD Programme Director)