

Paper 3

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By email

Mr Richard Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

16th December 2022

Dear Richard

Children's Services at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

We are writing to express our concerns about the high level of risk involved in the UHL provision of Children's and Young People's (CYP) Services that has been brought to our attention through our involvement in various the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Quality and Partnership groups. Namely:

Children's Emergency Department: increasing demand outweighing capacity

The overriding risk is that children and young people may receive unwarranted variation in the quality of care and are at risk of harm due to: lack of staff; lack of assessment room space; delays in patients' assessment and treatment; non-adherence to approved clinical pathways; poor patient experience and outcomes; and excessive pressures on the workforce.

Children's Respiratory Services: increasing demand outweighing capacity, with little focus on prevention and management

Children's health risks being compromised by: inadequate management of asthma resulting in: long term health complications; impaired quality of life; education disruptions and lowered life expectancy; increased demand on children's emergency department; unplanned hospital admissions; longer term costs for the NHS and society; and excessive pressures on the workforce.

We acknowledge that UHL staff are working very hard in very difficult circumstances. However, we seek assurance that the Trust is taking appropriate steps to mitigate these risks and is receiving the system support required to do so.

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We would be grateful if you could keep us informed of plans and, of course, if there is anything we at Healthwatch Rutland can do to help bring about improvements, please do let us know.

Yours Sincerely

J Underwood

Dr Janet Underwood PhD
Chair, Healthwatch Rutland

CC:

Caroline Trevithick, Chief Nursing Officer & Deputy Chief Executive, LLR ICB

Melanie Thwaites, Head of Women's and Children's Transformation, LLR ICB