Royal Brompton & Harefield **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Great Ormond Street **NHS**
Hospital for Children
NHS Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Joint Statement on behalf of Guy's & St Thomas', Great Ormond Street Hospital and Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trusts

Changes to Services for Children with Congenital Heart Conditions

Our three NHS Foundation Trusts are collectively committed to ensuring that current services for patients continue as normal while discussions begin to determine how the 4th July 2012 recommendation of the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts, that London should have two NHS child heart surgery centres from 2014, is safely and effectively implemented. As leaders of our respective organisations, we acknowledge a collective responsibility to work together and to provide direction and support for the families and staff affected. They, and colleagues at hospitals in London and the South East, should be confident that future services will build upon and enhance the undoubted quality of existing services, and that the transition to the new arrangements will be planned carefully and sensitively.

In particular, we will:

- develop a shared overall implementation plan for London, including joint monitoring mechanisms to give confidence that standards and safety are maintained throughout the period of transition;

- ensure that other services for children and adults are not adversely affected by plans to reconfigure children's congenital heart services;

- communicate consistently with families, staff and referrers, and actively seek their involvement as we develop our implementation plans;

- ensure that staff facing change and uncertainty feel valued and protected and understand that their skills and expertise will continue to be needed by the London networks;

- work collaboratively together to maintain a good outcome for London overall.

Robert J. Bell
Chief Executive, Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

Jan Filochowski
Chief Executive, Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust

Sir Ron Kerr, CBE
Chief Executive, Guy's & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust

6 December 2012