

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

2 September 2020

Dear Lewis,

UPDATE ON ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

I am writing to inform the Committee of an update on the timescale of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People.

I informed Parliament in May that COVID-19 may adversely affect the timeline of Autumn 2020 for fully opening the new Royal Hospital for Children and Young People. While we understood that there was a risk to this being achieved, we had been waiting on a confirmed project timeline before we moved away from this date.

However, there has been significant progress on the project to deliver a safe hospital.

Outpatient Services at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, including Neurophysiology and Diagnostic Radiology, moved into the new site in May as planned. The final phase of the move for the DCN took place in mid-July, this saw inpatient Neurosurgery and Neurology wards, along with Neurosurgery Theatres and Interventional Neuro-Radiology relocate to their new home. All DCN services are now fully delivered from the new site.

From July, a number of children's outpatient services moved to the new Hospital. This phased approach saw some Children's outpatient services, including Neurology and Orthopaedics, migrate along with a number of administrative support staff. This approach, which had been agreed with the full involvement of clinical teams and staff side representatives, not only frees up space at the existing Royal Hospital for Sick Children site, but enables NHS Lothian to continue to deliver quality paediatric clinics adhering and supporting social distancing.

We now have a confirmed date for safe completion of the final areas of the new Royal Hospital for Children and Young People of 25 January 2021.

The work has continued to ensure we deliver a safe hospital and that will remain the priority of this project. We are aware this upcoming move will be taking place over winter and expect NHS Lothian to fully support staff throughout this period.

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I am very grateful to everyone for all of their work on this project. This final move like the previous moves, will be planned with the full involvement of staff and communicated clearly to patients and families.

JEANE FREEMAN

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