

**SUSPENSION OF PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES AT JOHN
RADCLIFFE HOSPITAL, OXFORD.**

You may have seen recent media reports about the suspension of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital following the deaths of four children. An inquiry, which has been set up to investigate the unusually high number of deaths in a short space of time, will not, the hospital is stressing, only focus on surgery, but also on the wider care they received at the hospital. However, these tragic deaths do represent a cluster of highly complex cases, who may not have survived even if their surgery had taken place at a larger, more experienced unit, but because they occurred at a unit undertaking only 100 cases per year, they represented a larger percentage than is seen to be indicative of a "safe" surgical service.

Caner Salih, the surgeon who operated on the four children who died, announced his resignation at the end of last year, before the decision to suspend services had been made, and, as was reported in the press, had already been appointed by another hospital trust. We can confirm that that the hospital which will be employing him with effect from April 2010 is the Evelina Children's Hospital.

We have spoken to Dr. Shak Qureshi, Head of Service for Paediatric Cardiology at the Evelina Children's Hospital who assures us that the hospital are fully aware of the events at Oxford relating to Mr. Salih, and he will be joining in April with the full confidence of the team. For the first six months, he will be closely mentored by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Austin, being assisted by either one on all cases, and himself assisting them during more complex surgery.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact either Jo Wilson or one of the Outreach Team.