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Dear Colleagues

As Chair of the Steering Committee for the KIDS Intensive Care and Decision Support Service, I was very pleased to hear at our recent business meeting that the service is going from strength to strength. We are providing a service to an increasing number of patients both in terms of telephone advice and transportation to Paediatric Intensive Care while at the same time reducing the overall number of patients transferred out of region. This is a clear indication that we are becoming more efficient in the way we use the very expensive intensive care resource that we have at our disposal.

The service has always believed that good outcome for critically ill children is the result of a partnership including excellent local resuscitation and stabilisation, safe and efficient transfer to intensive care, and continuing high quality care on PICU. We had obtained some project funding for an outreach nurse to work with the KIDS consultants and local hospitals to enhance skills and competence in the initial resuscitation and stabilisation of sick children. This funding has now come to an end and unfortunately we have not been successful in obtaining ongoing funding.

I believe that the role of the outreach nurse was very much appreciated by the local hospitals and we felt in the steering group that we should try and maintain this service. In order to support this, I would like to ask local hospitals if each of you would be willing to contribute a small amount of funding towards this service. If the costs are divided between all the West Midlands paediatric units, we would be able to spread the burden and sustain a robust outreach programme that will complement KIDS.

Given current financial constraints, and lack of funding from other sources, we do not think we can fund this service any other way. Please discuss this with your medical, nursing and management colleagues and let us know what you think. I would be happy to discuss this with you by email or by telephone.

Yours sincerely

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