

Newcastle.

1) also

5. Officials visited the unit and met with cardiologists, nursing staff, and cardiac surgeons (both general and paediatric surgeons). Since being designated the activity in the Newcastle centre had apparently dropped significantly and doubt was raised as to whether the centre wished to continue to provide this service. The fall in activity appears to have resulted from the lead surgeon in this activity departing to a post in the U.S.A. The newly appointed consultant replacement had not maintained the activity level according to figures that had been supplied to the Department, but discussion revealed that more cases had been treated than had been notified. Additionally, one surgeon had recently returned to work after a period of sick leave. It remains to be seen if the previous activity levels WILL be achieved and doubts exist as to whether they would be increased. Once again there is a strong case for having such a unit in Newcastle in order to give adequate geographical cover.

Harefield/Brompton.

Keep under careful review.

Harefield.

6. Considerable difficulty was found in agreeing suitable dates on which to visit. In the event a date was agreed but shortly before the visit this was cancelled by Harefield. No visit has therefore been made to Harefield as yet.

Brompton.

7. Officials visited the Brompton part of the joint unit and met cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and management. The Brompton unit is very active and surgeons have available to them a sophisticated range of support for diagnosis, paediatric, and intensive care. The working of the "joint" arrangements with Harefield was discussed at some length. No one with whom officials spoke believed that a joint arrangement could work. The geographical separation of some thirty miles, across London with the inherent traffic problems, made such joint working impossible. The general view was that Harefield and Brompton had never worked as one centre. The lack of joint working arrangements means that, in fact, there are ten centres now designated.

Need to de-designate Harefield
as long-term report.
It has been unable to work as a
joint unit.
Failed to allow unit
held to why. (E.P.D.)