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INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the broad intentions of Bristol & Weston, Frenchay and Southmead Health Authorities for the purchase of health care services for their populations over the next 3 years, with particular emphasis on proposals for change in 1992/93 and for review over the 3-year period until 1995.

The document has been produced jointly by the 3 purchasing Health Authorities because from 1st April 1992 there will be a single budget for the purchase of NHS treatment and care in the Bristol and District area (with the exception of those services for which the Avon Family Health Services Authority is responsible and those which GP fundholders will purchase).

The purpose of Part I of these specifications for health care is to set out the 3 Districts' proposals for change and review:

- a. to inform and receive comment from:
  - the Regional Health Authority;
  - other interested agencies, including the Avon Family Health Services Authority, Avon Social Services, community health councils in Bristol and District and local voluntary organisations; and
  - members of the general public.
- b. to inform all actual and potential health care providers and invite proposals on specific service areas.

Part II of the specifications will set out detailed volume and quality proposals for each specialty and will be published at the end of October for negotiation with providers and agreement of contracts for services for 1992/93.

The majority of contracts for health services for the population of the Bristol and District area are not expected to change in real terms in the foreseeable future. This paper does **not** list proposals for specialties in which no change is expected (although they will be included in Part II of the specifications). The scope for change is limited because there is relatively little additional money available, but proposals are made in service areas where the purchasers see a possibility of obtaining greater value for money in terms of service efficiency, effectiveness or both. Particular attention is given to appropriateness of services (in line with medical advice), to timeliness of provision (with particular attention to booked hospital admissions) and to accessibility. These are 3 major components of a quality service.

**Section 1** of the paper summarises the background to the process of contracting for health care for the population of Bristol and District.

**Section 2** sets out proposals for change in 1992/93 and review, over the 3 years 1992/5, on the basis of:

- Health Authority strategies and local needs assessment;
- National and Regional guidelines;
- Review of past and current activities by providers, in terms of both volume and quality;
- Population and GP surveys;