



MS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

From the President
Professor KGMM Alberti PRCP

Ms Una O'Brien
The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry
2 - 10 Temple Way
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RECEIVED
10 JAN 2000

Our ref: PRCP/MCT/Ext 233/569

5 January 2000

Dear Ms O'Brien

RE: BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY INQUIRY - PHASE TWO

Thank you for inviting this College to produce a position paper on healthcare services for children.

Although we used to have responsibility for standards of medical care in children, this passed to the newly formed Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health when it was formed in 1996. As your themes are looking at the present and the needs for future development, we do not intend to produce our own position paper and support that of our sister Royal College.

We would, however, draw attention to the need for a smooth transition from paediatric care to adult care after children pass through puberty, usually at about the age of sixteen years. This is particularly important in chronic diseases such as diabetes and juvenile arthritis. Also, adolescents have particular needs that are not always met in the context of busy outpatient services catering for adults of all ages. In addition, there are particular requirements for patients with congenital heart diseases to be looked after in centres skilled in their management when they reach adult life.

At present we are arranging meetings with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to take forward these important interface issues.

Yours sincerely

SIR GEORGE ALBERTI PRCP

cc Dr J Bennett
Professor I T Gilmore
Philip Masterton-Smith