

NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF NHS EXECUTIVE HQ, SOUTH AND WEST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (RHA) AND THE UNITED BRISTOL HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST (UBHT) ON 9 MARCH 1995.

Present:

Rennie Fritchie	- Chair S&W RHA
Robert McKinlay CBE	- Chair UBHT
Graham Nix	- Deputy Chief Executive UBHT
Professor John Vann Jones	- Clinical Director Cardiac Services UBHT
Dr Gabriel Lasso	- Chair UBHT Medical Committee
Dr Hyam Joffe	- Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist UBHT
Dr Gabriel Scally	- Director of Public Health S&W RHA
Dr Peter Doyle	- Department of Health
Isabel Nisbet	- NHS Executive HQ
John Churchill	- Director of Corporate affairs S&W RHA
Billy Flynn	- NHS Executive HQ

1. Rennie Fritchie opened the meeting and welcomed colleagues. She thanked all those present for attending at such short notice.

2. Ms Fritchie emphasised the need to first of all identify, and then put right, any problem which affected the welfare of patients.

that the meeting was to agree a way forward and

that all present were working to the same aim of improving patient care.

3. Mr McKinlay said that the Trust was facing a complex issue. He acknowledged that concern had been expressed for some time about paediatric cardiac services in the BRI. He believed that the Trust had the situation under control from the middle of 1994 but, following an unsuccessful "switch" operation on an older child in January this year, earlier concerns had resurfaced. It was then decided that external paediatric cardiac experts should be brought in to analyse the paediatric surgical audit results and make recommendations.

4. Dr Doyle explained that, during a visit to UBHT ^{been} early ^{in July} in 1994, his advice had sought on how to resolve a longstanding problem over the interpretation of the paediatric surgical audit results. He had advised that the matter should be put to the Trust management again and, if necessary, outside expert help should be sought. He later discussed the proposed action with Professor Angelini and Dr Roylance and understood an acceptable agreement had been reached to the effect that, pending the appointment of a new paediatric cardiac surgeon, 'high risk' procedures would ^{not} be undertaken at BRI. Prior to the "switch" operation he had been contacted by concerned members of staff who believed it to be a high risk procedure and had communicated those concerns to Dr Roylance. Following the operation, he had been again contacted by a number of people including some outside the BRI. He therefore contacted Dr Roylance to suggest that an enquiry using outside experts was now essential to "sort out" the problem at BRI. The terms

perceptions of the

BRT service