

term either by the District providing the service, or by a special addition to the District's allocation. Whilst individual Districts may be prepared to fund minor developments in Regional Specialties, they are unlikely to divert the resources needed to fund a major expansion when much of the benefit will accrue to other Districts.

- 6.4 If funds are provided through a special allocation, this may artificially increase the imbalance in target positions of Districts for a period of two to three years, until the increased number of patients treated is reflected in cross-boundary flow statistics. From that time onwards, any changes in target position resulting from the expansion will reflect the use made of the service by individual Districts, and will, in the long term, be corrected by the operation of the RAWP formula.
- 6.5 A further problem which is anticipated in relation to central funding is that a straightforward addition to a District's allocation would not be fully utilised in the short term for that purpose, and in the longer-term the actual use of the funds will depend, to some extent on the increase in the number of patients treated. In the circumstances, it would be advisable for funds to be issued from any centrally-reserved allocation on the basis of the actual expansion of the manpower and other resources devoted to that specialty over a period time, and for the results (in terms of numbers of patients treated) to be carefully monitored.
- 6.6 Taking into account the various factors set out above, the Regional Team of Officers considers that any major development in the provision of Cardiac Surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary should be funded on the following basis:
- A central reserve should be created to fund the agreed cost of the development required.
 - Funds should be issued to the Bristol and Weston District on the basis of the actual expansion of the service provided.
 - The achievements of the expanded service should be monitored against agreed targets.
 - The central funding for the expansion should be ignored for the purpose of RAWP target calculations for a period of three years. From that time, the increased expenditure resulting from the expansion will be reflected in cross-boundary flow calculations, and the only effect on RAWP target positions will be due to the use made of the service by individual Districts.

7. FUTURE PATTERNS

- 7.1 The project team will be addressing itself to potential increase from 400 - 600. This will also include an appraisal of the best arrangements for paediatric cardiac surgery which may be the subject of continuing discussion in the national forum dealing with supra-Regional specialties. In the meantime the Strategic Planning Working Party is asked to give consideration to the enclosed report and, if it is in agreement, to sanction its referral to Districts so that an early assessment can be made of the commitment to the financial arrangements which are also set out.