

OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT AND PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES IN UBHT

INTRODUCTION

Strategic Context

a) - Children's Services

National Guidance in the form of several reports ie *Children First - Audit Commission 1992*, *The Care of Critically Ill Children (Fleming Report) - British Paediatric Association Dec 1993*, *Welfare of Children - Dept of Health 1992*, emphasise the principle that it is in the patient's best interest that children requiring hospital care should be treated in an exclusively paediatric environment.

UBHT is fortunate in having the Bristol Royal Children's Hospital (BRCH), which enjoys an international reputation as a centre of excellence for the provision of dedicated paediatric care for a wide range of conditions. A significant exception is the provision of open heart surgery which is located in the BRI, separated from all other aspects of paediatric cardiac services. It is a long-held view of all the professions concerned that paediatric open heart surgery should be located in the BRCH as part of an integrated paediatric cardiac service.

To this end, the feasibility of making the transfer has been investigated in the past, the most recent report dated October 1990. To date it has been concluded that the cost of such relocation, involving the construction of a new cardiac theatre, additional ITU beds, and additional staffing, has been prohibitive.

Other issues have now arisen which justify reconsideration of investment plans to achieve the strategic aim ie:-

Loss of Supra-regional designation for under one year olds requiring urgent action to retain and develop contracts for this group.

Urgent pressure to expand adult cardiac services.

Plans for a new children's hospital are well advanced, including provision for integrated cardiac services, but the new building is unlikely to be commissioned before the end of the decade. This is too far ahead to meet immediate and medium term demand on the service.

The outcome of the Avon Strategic Review due within the next eighteen months, may result in alterations to services in the BRI which cannot at present be anticipated. Major reorganisation involving other specialties in the BRI in the immediate future to accommodate expansion of adult cardiac surgery may pre-empt the Trust's flexibility to respond to new purchaser demands arising from the Review. Awaiting the outcome of this review before acting, however, may result in achieving the changes in surgical practice that are needed to secure the future of paediatric cardiac