

services. Both centres require additional funding for expansion of paediatric services, although no increase is needed for adult fulminant work.

28. At the request of the Advisory Group, the Royal College of Physicians convened a working party to examine the provision of specialised liver services. The working party drew attention to a need to improve regional hepatology provision, but did not recommend an increase in the number of supra regional centres providing specialised medical liver services. It questioned the logic of designating two of the many tertiary referral centres but advised no change to the present arrangements in view of the evident clinical success of the two centres. The Advisory Group therefore recommends that the current centres should continue to be funded supra regionally for the foreseeable future. The Secretary of State accepts this recommendation.

Neonatal and infant cardiac surgery

29. This service is provided at the following designated centres:

The Children's Hospital, Birmingham
 The Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
 Guy's Hospital, London
 The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street
 Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds
 The Royal Brompton Hospital in association with Harefield Hospital
 The Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children
 The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital (Alder Hey)
 Southampton General Hospital.

30. Rising activity will generate a requirement for additional funding in some of the units in 1992-93.

31. In its recommendations last year the Advisory Group pointed out that there were effectively ten designated centres, and in some activity was taking place in other units. This meant that the service must be considered for dedesignation. The Group would, however, prefer in the interests of patients that the service be rationalised into fewer designated units. Discussions are taking place with professional bodies, but unless these are the prospect of early rationalisation designation will have to be withdrawn.

Psychiatric services for deaf people

32. These services are provided at Springfield Hospital, London and the Whittingham Hospital, Preston. The centres are designated on an interim basis. The Advisory Group intended at its first meeting in 1992 to reach a definitive recommendation on the future status of the service. The Secretariat informed the units that the Group will advise Ministers that the new status should take effect in April 1993.