

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Initial Resolutions of the Regional Health Authority

At its meeting on 8th March, 1982, the RHA approved recommendations from the Strategic Planning Working Party relating to the Open Cardiac Surgery Working Party chaired by Dr. Gordon Mather. The decisions of the Regional Health Authority at that time were as follows:

- "the merits of the case of expansion of the Open Cardiac Surgery service in the South Western Region to 600 cases per annum be accepted in principle.
- in view of the anticipated nil growth in revenue no commitments should be made to implementing the recommendations of the report at present.
- steps should be taken to ensure that should Revenue become available the Authority was in a position readily to develop this service by establishing the Capital, Staffing and Equipment Consequences of the proposed development.
- further consideration be given to looking at a range of investment by which this service could be developed, including the possibility of better utilisation of present facilities. Once a profile of costs for different levels of Open Heart Surgery operations had been prepared further consultation would take place with District Health Authorities."

As a consequence of these decisions a Working Party was set up on 13th September, 1982, with the following Brief:-

"To examine a range of investment by which the service could be developed, including the possibility of better utilisation of present facilities at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and to this end establish the Capital, Staffing and Equipment Consequences of expanding the Open Cardiac Surgery service in the South Western Region in the immediate and longer term from 275 to 600 cases per annum."

### 2.2 Outcome of Working Party's First Report

Arising from consideration of the Working Party's First Report dated January, 1983, regarding the efficiency of the present service and the implications of expanding the service by 100 cases per annum, the RHA on 9th May, 1983, unanimously agreed a scheme for the immediate expansion from 275 to 375 operations per annum to be implemented during the Financial Year 1983/84 which was to be regarded as the top priority of the Authority.

### 2.3 Outcome of Working Party's Second Report

The Working Party's Second Report dated March, 1984, concentrated on the investigational service for both adults and children to meet the needs of the Regional Cardiac Service in Bristol, in keeping with the proposed surgical expansion to 600 operations per annum, whilst maintaining investigations to enable 200 patients to be sent to London for operation and increasing the 50 paediatric closed heart operations to 70.