

anxiously waiting for their child's return at the whim of the ambulance service. It was always very hard for parents to have to face their child's open heart surgery in an unfamiliar hospital, in a Unit with an age range of patients from 0-80.

FUNDING

41. I am certain that children's paediatric surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary was never properly resourced and funds eventually only became available when the crisis arose. Although fund raising has never been or never will be the primary aim of the Heart Circle, money raised by children, parents, friends and medical staff has made an extremely important contribution to the Cardiac Surgery Unit since it was set up in 1972 and also the Bristol Children's Hospital. It is impossible for me to calculate in retrospect the amount of money involved in projects initiated by the Heart Circle at BRI and BCH but it must be in the region of £1,000,000 all of this money being raised voluntarily by members of the Heart Circle.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

42. As will be implicit from the comments I have made earlier in this Statement, I would have to say that the financing of the support and counselling services was inadequate. Even when posts were created through funding from the Heart Circle, the posts were still effectively 'supernumary' as reflected by the relatively low priority afforded to support and Counselling Work by the Trust Management generally.
43. To conclude, I have throughout felt that the psychological and social needs of families was never made a priority by the Trust and that the