

HELEN VEGODA

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A ..... A

B B

C 10. In 1993 Helen Stratton left the Bristol Royal Infirmary. My role by this time had C

D expanded, as I had become more involved in supporting parents whilst their children D

E were at the Children's Hospital. In addition to my counselling and support role I was E

F also organising study days, commissioning and editing information booklets and F

G organising the annual Remembrance Service for bereaved families. G

H H

I 11. In 1996 I took on the new role in the Children's Hospital of Counsellor in Child I

J and Family support, offering counselling and support to families of children not J

K previously receiving counselling. A cardiac liaison nurse was appointed to the K

L Cardiac Team. Some Cardiac families still keep in touch with me but I do not usually L

M become involved with a Cardiac child now unless the parents <sup>or staff (HV)</sup> request this. I am still M

N in contact with some Cardiac bereaved parents. N

O O

P **ISSUE 2** P

Q **The nature, extent and adequacy of the services that were established to inform, Q**

R **support, and counsel families with children who died or suffered permanent R**

S **disability after receiving cardiac care at the BRI; including liaison with S**

T **Community and Society Services.** T

U U

V 12. Part of my role included emotional support, counselling and practical help to V

W parents at the time of, or following a child's death. My contact with bereaved parents W

X was open ended, and in some instances continued for several years. X

Y Y

Z Z

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed.....*Helen Vegoda*.....Dated....*8/7/99*.....

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.....  
 A 13. At the time of death my support could include staying with the parents until A  
 B they were ready to go home, accompanying the parents to register the child's death, B  
 C meeting them if they returned to the hospital to see their child in the Chapel, and liaise C  
 D with and be present at meetings with the Surgeon or Cardiologist, usually after the D  
 E post mortem report was available. E

F  
 G 14. I sent out regular cards to parents on the anniversary of their child's death and G  
 H birth, and instigated and organised an annual Remembrance Service for Cardiac H  
 I families for three years, each attended by over 150 people including medical and I  
 J nursing staff who took an active role. J  
 K

L 15. I worked closely with Charmian Mann then Chaplain to BCH/BMH in L  
 M providing a Bereavement Service. We set up a series of support groups for bereaved M  
 N families which appeared to help some participants. I also directed families to N  
 O voluntary organizations offering bereavement support such as Compassionate Friends O  
 P and CRUSE. P  
 Q

R **ISSUE I.3** R

S **The financing of the support and counselling services** S

T My role was as a Counsellor. I had no involvement in the financing of the support T  
 U counselling services. Whilst I have always considered myself to be an employee of U  
 V the Health Authority and then the Trust, I was aware that my post was partially funded V  
 W by the Heart Circle for up to two years following the instigation of my post. W  
 X  
 Y  
 Z

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed...*Helen Vegoda*.....Dated.....*8/7/99*.....