

When I took up my post as Cardiac Liaison Sister I started to keep a record of paediatric cardiac operations. Some of the details I included were the name of the child, the type of the operation, date excubated, name of the surgeon and general practitioner. I also included the details of when the child was transferred from Intensive Care to the nursery and his discharge from hospital or death. The record was not maintained when I was away or on holiday. I produce a copy of that record.

I expressed my concerns about the high mortality and morbidity with Fiona Thomas the Senior Sister at Bristol Royal Infirmary and Leslie Salmon the General Manager of the Cardiac Unit. They both appeared to agree with my sentiments but with an element of complacency said it had always been like that at Bristol. I relied on them to take my concerns forward to Mr. Wisheart.

At around the same time I spoke with Jean Pratten the lady who runs the Bristol Heart Circle and expressed my concerns to her about the high mortality. Although she seemed to appear sympathetic with me she would not take a stand. She was a friend of both Mr. Wisheart and Mr. Dhasmana and would only state that they were doing their best.

As the mortality rate increased and babies continued to die I was giving support to the nursing staff as well as grieving parents. If the baby died in the Operating Theatre the nursing staff there felt guilty and if the baby died on the ward after operation the nursing staff there felt guilty. Dr. Bolsin was very supportive to my role and to the other nursing staff.