

BRISTOL CARDIAC SURGERYBRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY AND BRISTOL ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDRENANNUAL REPORT 1989INTRODUCTION - HISTORY

Closed heart surgery was performed in the Bristol Royal Infirmary in the fifties by the late Professor Milnes Walker and Mr R E Horton and during the same period at Frenchay Hospital, and subsequently at the Royal Bristol Hospital for Sick Children by Mr R H Belsey. In 1961 Mr Belsey carried out the first open heart procedure in Bristol at the Infirmary, and the programme of mainly valve surgery and the correction of congenital abnormalities became established during the sixties as a Regional Service to the South West. During the later seventies and eighties there was rapid development of the cardiac surgical department with the establishment of coronary artery bypass grafting in 1976, and an increase in the total volume of work from 150 operations that year to 728 in 1989 (Figure 1, Table 1). In 1984 the unit was designated as one of the 9 Supra Regional Centres for infant cardiac surgery, which led to a marked increase in the number of infants and children operated both in the RBHSC and the BRI. The senior surgical team increased to 2 in 1965, to 3 in 1985 and at the end of 1989 a fourth surgeon was appointed.

Initially the cardiac surgical work was done in 2 beds in the side room of Swayne Ward in the King Edward Building, but in 1971 found a proper home on level 6 of the Phase I building, in an area originally planned as a Nurse's Sick Bay. In 1987-88 Ward 5 was enlarged and extensively re-developed resulting in the present 28 bedded unit opened by the Secretary of State in September 1988. It includes intensive care, high dependency care, nursery facilities and conventional low dependency care all within one ward and one unit. (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Low Dependency (9)	Nursery (4)	HDU (7)	ITU (8)
Dining and Play		Offices and Lab	