

adolescent to sort out the twisted membranes of his emotions and identity. It entails considerable hold of oneself and a sharp sense of one's own identity and individual dynamic. It demands the ability to stand back, to eschew value judgements especially those designing what this child shall be, and yet the ability to be wholeheartedly committed and involved.

In most of these Residential Homes, the story is increasingly of highly disturbed emotionally deprived children, requiring demanding work and of a depth and skill that quite often workers feel they cannot cope.

Many would now identify with Kellmer Pringle's analysis that it is not justified to regard residential institutions as a viable means of providing long term substitute parental care, and certainly not for children under twelve or thirteen years of age. Foster care is being developed now in a way that it never was before. Some workers feel that with appropriate resources and personal support, they should be working with the whole family, children and parents, in the home of that family.

In this context, following Kellmer Pringle again, institutional residential homes would have three functions only :

1. To provide short term care during family crises such as illness, accident or death.
2. To give time for a full assessment of child's background so as to make the most appropriate long-term plans for him.
3. To undertake the treatment and rehabilitation of children who are too damaged to cope with family living.

To fulfil the last mentioned task, children's institutions need to become therapeutic communities staffed by highly trained workers and by experienced advisory staff. ( 6)