

HEALTH NEWS • COMMUNITY NEWS • COMMUNITY HEALTH **COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS** HEALTH NEWS • COMMUNITY NEWS • COMMUNITY HEALTH

Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales

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The changes in primary care

Most CHCs will already be familiar with the outlines of the changes the Government proposes to make in primary health care. They will also know that even Conservative backbenchers have baulked at the elimination of free eye and dental examinations. There is to be considerable financial encouragement to GPs to provide a "better", more responsive service. As far as concerns CHCs, secretaries will henceforth be allowed to represent patients at service committee hearings, and FPCs are to be encouraged to consult more fully. No details are given for this latter proposal. Listeners to the "Today" radio programme may have heard Edwina Currie's opinions on CHC consultations - they are an impediment to the speedy implementation of plans. A healthy scepticism would therefore seem to be in order when the Government speaks of more CHC consultation.

Cervical Smear Programme "A Shambles"?

According to the Women's National Cancer Control Campaign, this is what the cervical cancer screening programme could turn out to be. Little more than half of the health authorities in the south of England will have full, computerised smear test systems in place by the Government's own deadline of 31st March 1988. The WNCCC says that women wanting a test more than once every three years will not be able to receive one without an adequate medical reason.

"The system has not worked so far and it is not working now", Sarah MacKenzie of WNCCC told The Guardian (26.10.87). "Dedicated individuals are working terribly hard but they do not have the resources or the facilities." The highly aggressive form of cancer found in women in their twenties can develop within two years and could therefore be missed: "All our reports show that five years is too long a gap. Women ought to be screened every year from the age of 20." So far only 41 of the 76 DHAs in the south of England will be able to meet the deadline. In the S.W. Thames Region only 4 of 13 districts have full systems with one more due to go on stream by the end of the year.

Low response rates to invitations for screening of between 10 and 25 percent are being experienced by those schemes already operating. There is anxiety that women most at risk are not coming forward for screening and not enough is being done to encourage them. Some men were mistakenly called for screening, but decided to forego the opportunity of making medical history. (Independent 6.10.87) The DHSS see it as the responsibility of DHAs to monitor the effectiveness of schemes, although a central team has been set up by Sir Roy Griffith to monitor the programme.

Non Smoking Campaign

The incidence of smoking-related illnesses in this country is amongst the highest in the world. There is an increase in public and professional concern at the number of people, particularly schoolchildren, who are still smoking and the spread of the habit amongst young girls and women. The British Medical Association has now launched a non-smoking campaign aimed at winning over the co-operation of families. Dr. John Dawson of the BMA criticised the Government (Guardian 27.10.87) for failing to put higher taxes on cigarettes and ban all tobacco advertising. The family campaign, he said, is necessary as it has been shown that the children of parents who smoke are twice as likely to do so as those whose parents do not.

Dr. Anne Charlton, who conducted a study into child smokers for the Cancer Research Campaign, said that children can get hooked on cigarettes from the moment they smell tobacco in their mother's breath. The BMA is printing 500,000 anti-smoking leaflets for distribution through churches of all denominations.

Royal Colleges Unite Against Alcohol

Added weight was given to the campaign to reduce alcohol consumption recently in the form of a strongly worded consensus statement to the Government by the medical Royal Colleges. The statement urged the Government to fulfil its endorsement of the WHO target of a 25% reduction in alcohol consumption by the year 2000. To achieve this it would be necessary for the Government to increase the price of alcohol, limit alcohol advertising, require manufacturers to adequately label beverages, resist the move to extended licensing hours, introduce random breath testing, lower drink/driving limits, promote alcohol consumption limits for men and women, and finance a public education campaign. A call was also made to the medical profession to improve its knowledge on alcohol problems, and to set a better example. (Lancet 14.11.87) The journal, Health Trends, is at present serialising the findings of DHSS funded research and subsequent book 'Preventing Alcohol Problems: a guide to local action.'

Problems for the PHLS

City analysts are predicting a £10M "bonus" for private laboratories as a result of plans to privatise NHS pathology services. (Guardian 10.11.87). They expect private firms to take over substantial shares in testing blood and tissue samples for a range of diseases including AIDS and cervical cancer. John Moore has already told the RHAs that the pathology services are the next target for privatisation and the NHS management board is already considering detailed plans for this. A DHSS circular on the subject is expected to go out to all RAs by Christmas. It will be presented as a cost saving move. Already some financial services are recommending customers to buy shares in private

laboratories and the Guardian states that the London-based J.S. Pathology group will be a major beneficiary of privatisation.

Meanwhile a confidential survey of all Public Health Laboratory Service units in the country has revealed very serious staffing problems. In the past year over one-fifth of basic grade scientific officers have left their jobs. Laboratories are also finding it difficult to recruit appropriately qualified staff. Low pay, poor career prospects and uncertainty over privatisation are the explanations given for this exodus. (Guardian 18.11.87)

Who pays for patients?

An article in New Society for 16th October reported on a new kind of funding problem in community care. In some districts (Preston, Exeter and Birmingham are three examples), the health authority has taken a lead on community housing schemes by going into partnership with housing associations or voluntary organisations. The housing association manages the housing and the NHS provides the staff to care for the residents. The DHSS has decided (albeit temporarily as they wait for Sir Roy Griffiths to report) that the residents in such schemes must be regarded as NHS patients. As a result, their social security entitlements are curtailed. This is not altogether inimical to some parts of the voluntary sector. Perhaps, they argue, such authority-led schemes emerge because of inadequate consultation with local voluntary organisations. There is also some instinctive anxiety about the large monolithic bureaucracy "gobbling up" the smaller grassroots agency. We would be interested to hear the views of CHCs in districts where such schemes are either operating or being planned.

The Government's response to Chernobyl

Only 2% of District Medical Officers in the UK expressed satisfaction with the government's response to the Chernobyl disaster and 44% expressed dissatisfaction. This is the result of a survey reported at a conference held by the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons in Edinburgh in October. Advice and information were all too often out of date when they arrived. In the aftermath of the disaster neither the DMOs or their colleagues received any guidelines for action.

The conference report notes that on 30 June last the Prime Minister stated that "the main framework of new contingency plans... is complete" and "departments and organisations involved in implementing the plan are now preparing their own, complementary, individual contingency plans". MCANW denies that such preparations are underway, at least in health authorities. A report published in the Observer at the beginning of October stated that the Prime Minister had ruled out any detailed planning for a nuclear accident in this country in the belief that such an event was not possible.

NRPB changes safety guidance

The National Radiological Protection Board has announced that it wants the limits for maximum legal radiation doses lowered by more than a half. It was previously thought that a worker exposed to the maximum dose of 50 millisieverts each year had a one in 2000 chance of contracting a fatal cancer each year. As a result of research on survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, this figure has been revised to a one in 700 chance. Over a 40 year working life, this means that a worker exposed to current maximum doses has a one in 18 chance of contracting a fatal cancer.

Cancer clusters

Researchers in the Northern health region have discovered three new clusters of child leukaemia, in Gateshead, Whitehaven and Teeside. Although the number of reported cancers is in itself low, their location is of some significance as they are not close to any nuclear installations. (Daily Telegraph 11.11.87)

Deaf Children

A unique national service for deaf children and their parents has been set up by the National Deaf Children's Society. The Technology Information Centre (TIC) is based in Birmingham and will enable parents to receive information and advice on the new equipment which is now available to help their children and young people. It will also make available on loan radio hearing aids and other equipment so that they can be tried out by individual children or replace aids that are being repaired. It has fully disabled access and offers free advice and information on new equipment, working displays of environmental, teaching and communication aids and a regular technical bulletin for parents and professionals. It also produces a handbook, which lists relevant equipment and organisations. Copies of the handbook can be obtained from the Society at 45 Hereford Road, London W2 5AH. You should send an A4 envelope with a 21p stamp.

Europeans and the prevention of cancer

In March and April of this year, the Commission of the European Communities carried out a public opinion survey on cancer prevention in the twelve countries of the EEC. It would seem that nearly four out of ten Europeans underestimate or are ill-informed about the possibilities of cancer prevention. 28% of respondents did not know that tobacco is the most widespread carcinogen in our environment. Rather surprisingly, the report concluded that Europeans are reasonably well aware of the "European Code Against Cancer". Are you? The significance of moles and the connection between cancer and alcohol consumption were the two main weak points in the understanding British people have of cancer prevention.

Coping with the cuts?

A number of news items have appeared in recent weeks on cuts being implemented or considered by health authorities. In Leeds Western health district the members voted against the management proposals for balancing the budget. Managers in Cheltenham are considering the idea of a special emergency trust fund which would be used to top up Exchequer funding. This would enable those patients who wished to contribute something towards their care to do so. A Unit General Manager from West Berkshire health authority has resigned in protest at the cuts he was asked to implement. In Cornwall, three women barricaded themselves inside a kitchen at the Bolitho Maternity Hospital in Penzance. If Bolitho closes, women from some parts of west Cornwall will have to travel more than 40 miles to give birth in hospital. The hospital car service is to be axed in Cornwall and the non-emergency ambulance service considerably reduced.

Alcohol counselling

The Alcohol Counselling Service is offering a new service by the Black Women and Dependence Group as a result of pressure from black women. It is specifically designed to help black women who are experiencing alcohol-related difficulties. The ACS offers one-to-one counselling, a special black women's group, a meeting place for various other black womens' groups and counselling and training opportunities. Further details from the ACS, 34 Electric Lane, London SW9 8JT. Tel (01) 737 3579 or (01) 737 3570.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS

CHC (Access to Information) Bill Resurrected

The first reading of the above Bill, presented by MP Andrew Faulds, took place on the 28 October last. This provides for access by the public to meetings of, and to certain documents and information relating to, CHCs and for related purposes.

FROM THE JOURNALS

The Costs of AIDS

In the British Medical Journal of 10 October doctors from St. Mary's Hospital in London provided an estimate of the cost of caring for an AIDS patient at home. The average survival time for patients presenting at St. Mary's with the syndrome was one year. Costs are worked out on the assumption that for 11 months the patient will be treated at home, with a total of four weeks inpatient care. Not only is such home care generally most appropriate to the patient's needs, but it is also unrealistic to

expect the current rate of acute bed usage to be maintained. Naturally there would have to be a considerable development of support services within the community. They estimate the amount needed for a package of care for one year - which includes both home and hospital treatment, blood transfusions, outpatient visits, home help provision, equipment for nursing, visits to the home by therapists, clinicians, etc. and finally hospice care - would be £21,855 per person plus a further £5,200 for the drug zidovudine. This means a full cost of £27,055. This is much higher than previous estimates concentrating largely on hospital provision.

Screening for coronary heart disease

The British Hyperlipidaemia Association and the Coronary Prevention Group both published statements in the British Medical Journal (14th November) on risk assessment for coronary heart disease. The BHA recommends that all adults should have their blood lipid concentrations measured at least once, preferably before the age of 30. Anyone with plasma cholesterol concentrations above a certain level would receive general dietary counselling and advice on other risk factors. The CPG recommends that serum cholesterol testing should be available on request and that all adults should have their blood pressure tested at least once every five years. Both organisations emphasised that strategies intended to identify high risk individuals must be complemented by strategies aimed at the whole population.

Nutrition and PMT

The Women's Nutritional Advisory Service have circulated papers recently printed in the American Journal of Reproductive Medicine. The benefits of dietary changes and nutritional supplements for women experiencing premenstrual tension are discussed. Symptoms are divided into subgroups as they are caused by different nutritional factors. The suggested dietary changes covered all subgroup factors. Three types of treatment were tried: dietary changes; a multi-nutrient dietary supplement; and both together. Women with the most serious problems were treated with both. All three surveyed groups showed improvement in symptoms, the nutrient-supplement had the greatest effect over all, although for certain symptom subgroups changes in diet was just as effective. Only women who had assessed their initial PMT as severe, noted extreme effects on family, social and work life, and consequently experienced significant improvements with treatment. Warning was given about using single-nutrient supplements, or multi-nutrient supplements either in excessive amounts or at high amounts over long periods. Women interested in using nutrition to improve their PMT problems are advised to consult a nutritionist.

Who is using cervical cancer screening services?

Very little information is held centrally on exactly which groups of women are missing out on cervical cancer screening. A recent survey of 2,212 randomly selected women in Cardiff, written up in the November issue of Health Trends gives some of the answers. Of the Cardiff women 72% had been given a smear test at some time and 54% reported being screened within the previous 5 years. Of those women who had been screened, 43% were aged between 25 and 44, only 11% were between 15 and 24 and 31% between 45 and 64. 71% were married. The greater numbers of women in social classes I and II who had been screened was less marked than has been found elsewhere; 74% of the women in social class I had been screened compared to 68% of social class IIIN and 67% of class V. The lowest rate of screening was found amongst 15 to 24 year olds in classes I and II. Although this survey is not detailed enough to give a complete picture of screening take-up, it does indicate the type of information that is needed if management of cervical screening services are to be improved.

AROUND THE CHCs

West Lambeth CHC is very concerned about the impact of the coming community charge (the "poll tax") on families caring for an elderly relative at home. As there will be a charge for every adult living at a particular address, any elderly person who is unable to cope alone and moves in with younger relatives - thus saving the cost of nursing home or hospital care - will place an additional financial burden on the family. In Lambeth this could be as much as £600. CHC Secretary Richard Wiles sees this as, in effect, a "fine" on those families acting as carers. The policy is hard to square with the Government's views on community care. West Lambeth believes that one possible consequence of using GPs' lists to compile the community charge register may be to discourage some poor families fearful of paying the tax from registering with a doctor.

Bloomsbury CHC has launched a new publication Mental Health News, which will be distributed to voluntary organisations, support agencies, consumer groups and social services as well as clinicians, community psychiatric nurses, hospital nurses and administrators. It will be published at the end of each month and the aim is to cover the widest possible range of topics and different areas of work in mental health, focussing on one in particular in each issue. The first issue includes, among other things, details of the Walk-In Mental Health Advice Centre run by the Compass Project (jointly funded by Bloomsbury DHA and Camden Social Services Department) and a Helpline and Directory of useful telephone numbers and organisations. We wish it well.

Manchester's Health Information Library pioneered by the city's CHCs is set to close for lack of cash. North Western RHA, which had backed the service with all of £3000 has refused further funding. The service provided members of the public with access to the CHC's computerised library and press cutting service. It had proved very successful, dealing with up to 60 queries a month. The CHCs are unlikely to be able to fund the service from their own budget.

Southend CHC recently contacted us over an advertisement in a local newspaper, which illustrates some of the problems of monitoring care in the community. Newham health district is moving 9 people to Southend, "in order that they may live reasonably close to relatives". Inspectorate rights will not devolve to Southend district and additional demands will be made on already overstretched rehabilitation and day care facilities. Southend is concerned that such moves could be made when the family links were extremely tenuous. It would, in effect, be a form of "dumping", which can only militate against effective planning.

CHC Reports, Surveys and Publications,

Clywd North CHC has looked at patients' expectations of first out-patients appointments. The survey aimed to establish at what stage between referral and consultation the patient prefers to receive notification of the appointment. It is obvious from the response that it is difficult to please all the people all the time. Those with a potentially very worrying condition want to be seen as soon as possible. On the other hand, many people wanted longer notice in order to make necessary arrangements at work, for holidays, etc. This seems to be an area where discussion between CHCs on behalf of patients and the hospitals would be fruitful.

Cambridge CHC has published the results of its survey into day hospitals. The main finding to emerge, apart from the effective service provided by these hospitals, is the extent of the difficulties now being faced with regard to transport. "So severe were the problems at the time of the survey that the entire operation of the day hospitals for outpatients was severely disrupted. Such is the frustration of both Addenbrooke's and Chesham at the consistently significant delays that both hospitals keep transport diaries showing arrival and departure times.

"In addition transport managers have introduced 'zoning' which means that clinical judgement about appropriate placement must be overruled by geographical accident. Moreover, Addenbrooke's twenty outpatient attendances have been arbitrarily reduced to twelve because of transport restrictions" and, this, says the CHC, leads to the under-use of much needed facilities.

Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde CHC has issued a report on the quality of care for paediatric in-patients. The over-riding worry of most parents at all times throughout their child's stay in hospital is the lack of information about the care their children are receiving. Although in some cases this seems on investigation to be adequate, there is sufficient evidence in some areas to indicate that the situation is not satisfactory and should be improved. Lack of facilities for the comfort of parents was also highlighted as being of major concern, including toilet facilities, refreshments, telephones, rest-rooms and the inadequate facilities for parents who had to stay overnight. Once again parents praised the quality of nursing under difficult conditions.

GLACHC has published two major reports. "Losing Patients" reports on the funding of services for priority groups in London. This was a complex study and many different factors had to be taken into account, but GLACHC notes that the most important conclusion to emerge from the research project on this subject is the clear evidence that since in 1981, or in some cases 1982, there has been a marked downturn in the spending and services devoted to priority groups in London. The decline has been both relative and absolute, that is the priority groups have received both less cash and less service and have lost both faster than the acute sector. This, says, the report, "is the more distressing because of the evidence that up to 1981/2 substantial progress was being made in shifting resources for care into the priority groups." The study, says GLACHC, has had to leave a number of important questions unanswered. "The concept of community care depends upon the comprehensive and integrated delivery of appropriate forms of care to people who are mainly living at home. At a time when that concept is still being developed in practice, it is inconceivable that intelligent decisions can be made, or that progress can be monitored as it needs to be, without proper knowledge of what is being achieved in this vital area". Copies of the report are available from GLACHC. Price £2.

The second report is called "Dismantling the NHS" and looks at the plans put forward by City and Hackney DHA for fund raising (by sponsorship, lottery and charitable funding), marketing non-clinical services and marketing clinical services. The report raises real doubts about the ability of such schemes to yield a profit and argues that existing patient care will be damaged in a number of ways. This too is available from GLACHC.

"Help for the Hard of Hearing" is a special pamphlet produced by Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton CHC to explain what services and aids are available and where to go for information and help. It is also published in poster form and might usefully be copied.

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

A Picture of Health

This major report by the Department of Community Medicine of the Central Birmingham Health Authority under the directorship of ex-ACHCEW Chairman Dr. Rod Griffiths confirms and underlines everything we have learned from previous reports on the subject. Once again we see how the deprived suffer "from cradle to grave".

The death rate for infants in the first week of life, nationally, is 9.6% per 1000 live births. In the West Midlands Region it was 11% and in Central Birmingham 12.2%. There are enormous differences between wards, especially those with high ethnic populations. The rate for Nechells with its large Afro-Caribbean population is far and away the worst in the city. Deaths are also high among babies born to young unmarried mothers. From birth onwards, the chances of good health and survival can largely depend upon where you live and what you do. Deaths in early adulthood are mainly caused by heart disease, cancer and stroke, all closely related to smoking and alcohol related consumption. Premature in central Birmingham are 13% above the national average but Nechells is a massive 50% above the national average. In such areas, says the report, "more than half the community care services were considered poor. The problems were not of quality but of quantity. There are just not enough community health staff to go round".

The report is obtainable from the Department of Community Medicine, Central Birmingham HA, District Office, Vincent Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TZ.

Practising Community Care: developing locally based practice is a new practical how-to-do-it guide for developing a local, integrated and participatory pattern of service. It has been produced by the social work journal "Community care" and the Joint Unit for Social Service Research at the University of Sheffield. Available from: the JUSSR, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN. Price £3.

The Policy Studies Institute last month published a report looking at the provision of information to elderly people. The report is based on a PSI project, which aimed to promote the well-being of people over the age of 70 living in inner city areas by providing them with information and encouraging them to take up services and benefits. Ill-informed? A Study of Information and Support for Elderly People in the Inner City costs £6.95 and is available from PSI, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR. Price includes p & p.

The Association of District Councils has produced a review of its housing initiatives entitled Moving with the Times. This may be of some interest from the point of view of care in the community,

though much of projects will be outside the CHC's terms of reference. The booklet is available from the ADC at 9 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LE. Price £3.

Promoting Innovation in Community Care is a briefing paper from the King's Fund, which stresses there is no "organisational quick fix" for the problems of community care. The paper endorses the Audit Commission's recent diagnosis of the problems but does not support its proposal for structural solutions. It believes that the central challenge for the community care policy is to make happen on a large scale what is already occurring on a small scale for a few people in some of the best services across the country. There is no lack of innovation. The difficulties lie in its uneven spread, its small scale in terms of coverage, and its isolation from mainstream activity. The report argues strongly for a coherent national policy for community care. Poor inter-departmental co-ordination in Whitehall can make a mockery of attempts to implement community care policies and points out the clash between the DHSS's emphasis on community-based services provided by local authorities and the Department of Environment's rate-capping strategies. The All Wales Strategy for the Development of Services for Mentally Handicapped People is cited as an example of what is possible. For further information and a copy of the report contact David Hunter, King's Fund Institute, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF.

Issues in Reproductive Health Law in the Commonwealth is published by the Commonwealth Secretariat and offers an overview of reproductive health services including the consideration of maternal and child mortality and their impact on family life. It also looks at abortion, contraception and sterilisation. Copies are obtainable from the publication section of the Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX. Price £9.50.

Look and Touch is a booklet for parents and carers of children with visual impairment. It is easy to read and fully illustrated and gives details of many play activities. Copies from Play Matters/NTLA, 68 Churchway, London NW1 1LT. Price £1.10 + 30p p & p.

The Trainers Handbook for Multi-racial Health Care by Jo Larbie, Penny Mares and Carol Baxter is available from the National Extension College, 18 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2HN. Price £35.

AIDS and HTLV III: A Medical Briefing is published by the Terrence Higgins Trust and is the second edition of their publication which has been substantially updated. It is available from the Trust, BM AIDS, London WC1 3XX.

The AIDS Letter is the title of a new newsletter produced by the Royal Society of Medicine on AIDS and HIV. There are 6 issues each year and the annual subscription is £12. It is aimed at a wider audience than clinicians. The articles are short, non-technical and readable. The RSM are based at 1 Wimpole St., London W1M 8AE. (Tel. 01-408-2119).

Each year almost 2000 people die from asthma and over a third of them are under the age of 35. The Royal College of GPs has produced an information folder on the subject of Asthma, the fourth title in its new clinical information series. It can be obtained from the RCGP Sales Office, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU Price £9 to members and £10 to non-members. They have also published a folder on Medical Records intended to encourage higher standards of medical record keeping which also deals with the pros and cons of using computers. The price is £5 to members, £6 to non-members.

Kids Alive is an information pack designed by Friends of the Earth specifically aimed at trying to prevent what it describes as the "annual slaughter of more than 400 children on the roads". It was launched by the presentation of a 5-foot-high cross, made of flowers (one for each child killed during 1986) to the Department of Transport. The cost of the pack is £1 and it can be obtained from "Kids Alive", Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ.

Dementia: Its Nature and Management by Morris Fraser is published by John Wiley & Sons. Price £19.50.

The Directory of Leasehold Sheltered Housing Schemes for Elderly People is published by the National Federation of Housing Associations, 175 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8UP. Price £6.50 for members, £10.50 for non-members.

INFORMATION WANTED

The Mental Health and Handicap Working Group of Tower Hamlets CHC is currently looking at good practices in mental health provision in the community and would appreciate information from other CHCs where these are being developed. As ACHCEW is starting to collect information of this sort, we would be grateful if CHCs could send copies of their communications to us.

* Leeds Eastern CHC is interested in what contact other CHCs have made with private nursing homes in their districts and of what value they feel that contact has been. For example, when they have noted practices which they have not liked, have these been changed by CHC intervention and how? Please send any information to Leeds East.

North Devon CHC would be interested to hear if any CHCs have looked at the subject of secondary infections. They would particularly like to know what data is collected in the community and acute sectors.

Merton & Sutton CHC are collating information on what is available locally for elderly people in order to keep them fit and healthy. Have other CHCs undertaken work of this kind?

COMING EVENTS

International Perspectives on Unhealthy Housing is the title of a special conference which will be held at Warwick University from 13-15 December. Representatives from the USA, Canada, Turkey, Italy and Switzerland will be among the 48 speakers who will address the conference. It is organised by the Institute of Environmental Health Officers and the University's Legal Research Institute and it will review recent efforts and initiatives to alleviate and control the problems of unhealthy housing and develop new standards. The conference fee is high - £172.50 for those wanting accommodation, with a limited number of places available at £115 for representatives from community groups. The cost for either day is £69 including copies of the day's Papers. For further information contact Rosemary McMahon at the Institute of Environmental Health Officers, Chadwick House, Rushworth Street, London SE1 0QT. (Tel: 01-928-6006).

The Royal Society of Health is offering two lectures, both on topical subjects. The first is on Cancer of the Cervix: a sexually transmissible disease? and it will take place at the Postgraduate Centre, Withington Hospital, Manchester on 3 December with an admission charge of £5. The second is on The OPCS Experience of Monitoring the Nation's Teeth and this will be held at the British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole St, London W.1. and again the admission charge is £5. Those wishing to attend either or both of these lectures should contact: The Conference Department, Royal Society of Health, 38A St. George's Drive, London SW1V 4BH.

Child Abuse: Seek and You Will Find...? is the title of a conference to be organised by The Society of Community Medicine in conjunction with the NSPCC on 8 January 1988 at the Renold Building, UMIST, Manchester. Delegates fee (including refreshments and lunch) is £23 for members of the SCM or NSPCC staff and £27 for non members. Special rail concessions and overnight stay arrangements can be made so long as the Society is given three weeks' notice. Details from Dr. P.A. Gardener, Society of Community Medicine, 31 Battye Avenue, Huddersfield HD4 5PW (Tel: 0484 653110).

Evaluation and Health Education is a seminar to be held 22-24 February 1988 at the School for Advanced Urban Studies. The price is £255! Details from the School for Advanced Urban Studies, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA.

AIDS Education: An Experiential Approach is a national residential course at Nottingham University on 24-29th March 1988. The main thrust of the conference will be on how AIDS education can be taught. The tuition fee for the course is £80.00, full residence at the university for the five days is £100, making a total of £180 for the week. Details from: Miss J. Kirkland, School of Education, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

The National Children's Bureau is holding a 25th Birthday Conference at Manchester University from 28-30 June next year. Issues raised will include: how can research findings change policy and assist practice; how are policy changes communicated and implemented: how best can change be effected and how can children and young people influence these processes? Further advance details from the Bureau at 8 Wakeley Street, London EC1V 7QE.

Some time ago we carried notice of a workshop to be held in July 1988 on the Abuse of Human Service Technologies: Drugs and Behaviour Modification. As often seems to be the way with publicity material put out so far in advance even the address for those requiring information has now changed. It is: Diane Sharpley, PO Box 6, Whalley, Blackburn BB6 9QZ. Tel: 0254:822121.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf is holding a series of winter lectures under the title Deaf Worlds. Coming up are: "Employment" at which Sir Peter Baldwin, vice president of RNID will speak and it will be chaired by TUC Secretary Norman Willis on November 25; "Resources" by Sally Baldwin, Director of the Social Policy Research Unit at York University on 27 January 1988; "Communications" by Dr. Ron Kelly, Director of the National Technical Institute for the Communication Programme of Rochester Institute of Technology, USA on 22 February and "The Environment" by Rod Hackney, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects on 24 March. Tickets for each are £3 and can be obtained from RNID (Winter Lectures), 105 Gower St, London WC1 6AH. The lectures will all be held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, Portland Place, London W1.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Page 1: NEWCASTLE CHC

Correction: Tel. No. 091 2610841.

Page 4: HULL CHC

Amendment to postcode: HU2 8LR

Page 7: GT. YARMOUTH & WAVENEY CHC

New Address: (from 9.11.87)
19 Milton Road East,
Lowestoft,
Suffolk, NR32 1NT. Tel: 0493 500635

Page 18: HIGH WYCOMBE CHC

New Secretary: Stephen Carter