

Community Health News

Issue 64

June/July 1991



COMMUNITY HEALTH

News

ASSOCIATION · OF

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS

FOR · ENGLAND · & · WALES

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No. 64 June/July 1991

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NEWS

Queue jumping

The Department of Health and the Joint Consultants Committee have issued guidelines on "queue jumping" by GP fund-holders for hospital in-patient treatment. The guidelines will be in force from April 1992 and will aim to ensure that patients of GPs who are not fund-holders will not lose out under the new system of the internal market. The guidelines state that waiting lists should be used for all urgent or seriously ill patients and that contract specifications should include flexible waiting times to allow for clinical need. The new rules seem to allow for queue jumping where a purchaser is creating 'extra capacity' by funding, for example a closed ward. However this is defended in the guidelines by the statement which suggests that such developments may be used to the benefit of other purchasers' patients. **Guardian 12 June 1991**

Special referral budgets

What proportion of a health authority's budget should be allocated to cover the costs of treating patients in hospitals with which the authority has no contract? In a Labour Party survey of 110 district health authorities, just under half of the districts had set aside 1% of their budget for this purpose. Robin Cook MP claimed that these figures showed that the NHS reforms would reduce rather than enhance patient choice. The Health Secretary, William Waldegrave, replied by denying that the "special referral funds" were intended to cover all extra-contractual referrals. They were to pay only for those referrals to hospitals which had never before received a resident of the purchasing authority. **Daily Telegraph 29 May 1991**

First wave NHS Trusts

Chairmen of the first wave NHS Trusts have combined to form the National Health Service Trusts Federation. The Federation will seek to provide Trusts with a unified voice in its dealings with other parts of the NHS and professional health care associations.

NHS abortions

The 1979 Royal Commission on the NHS proposed that health authorities should aim to provide 75% of all local abortions. According to a survey carried out by the Pro-Choice Alliance, 100 districts have failed to reach this target. **Guardian 25 May 1991.**

Breast cancer screening

Unpublished results from an eight year Canadian study of breast cancer screening indicate that mammography is very unlikely to benefit women under the age of 50 years. The study involved 50,000 women between the ages of 40 and 49, and lasted from 1980 to 1988. Half of the women received a mammogram every year or 18 months, whilst the other half received only one physical examination. Death rates from breast cancer were higher in the group receiving regular mammography than in the other group. Whether or not these unexpected results should be interpreted as confirmation of the view that regular mammography in women under 50 is more likely to be harmful than beneficial appears now to be a matter of some controversy. In the USA, where the government recommends that all women over the age of 40 have regular mammograms, the study has quickly caught the attention of the popular media. In this country the Institute of Cancer Research is about to embark on a trial to ascertain the benefits of breast cancer screening for women between the ages of 40 and 50 years.
Sunday Times 2 June 1991

Asthma drugs

The Committee on the Safety of Medicines has decided to set up a working party to review all the published evidence on the safety of the long-term regular use of beta-2 agonist bronchodilators in asthma. Between 1980 and 1988 annual mortality from asthma in the UK rose by a third, from 1,500 to 2,000. The incidence of the disease is also increasing. It has been suggested that the excessive or inappropriate use of the beta-2 agonists may contribute to increased mortality from the disease (though not its increased incidence). Doctors advise patients that drugs like salbutamol should be reserved for acute asthmatic attacks and that inhaled anti-inflammatory steroids are the best form of regular medication to treat the underlying condition. It seems, however, that many people are reluctant to use anti-inflammatory steroids because the name "steroids" is associated most closely with the androgenic-anabolic steroids that are used illegally by athletes. **Guardian 1 June 1991**

Claim forms too complex

A report from the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux has criticised the Government's health benefit scheme for its complexity, inconsistency and inadequacy. According to NACAB, many people on low incomes are paying NHS charges when they should not be doing so. **Guardian 30 May 1991**

Children with not enough to eat

In a survey of 354 low income families who receive assistance at National Children's Home centres across the country, one in ten children under the age of five had missed meals because the

parents could not afford to buy more food. One fifth of the parents regularly missed meals. Fewer than half the children in the survey ate fruit or green vegetables every day. The NCH has called on the Government to raise the level of income support so that all families can have an adequate diet. **Times 4 June 1991**

Health & safety

The ceiling for fines that may be imposed in magistrates' courts under the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 is to be increased from £2,000 to £20,000. This brings the financial penalties for breaches of health and safety legislation up to the level of those that may be imposed for serious pollution offences under the Environmental Protection Act. The average health and safety fine is now £877.

Dental charges

On 1st July the cost of a dental check-up will increase from £3.45 to £3.75. The maximum charge for NHS dental work will be £200, a £50 increase. Further information about the increase in charges is available from the Department of Health, 158-176 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5TB.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS

Nursing home care

In evidence submitted to the House of Commons Social Security Committee inquiry into the financing of private residential and nursing homes fees, the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts claims that "nursing home places for people on low income may be unavailable due to the lack of a clear national policy about the responsibility for funding and provision of nursing home care". NAHAT argued that the White paper **Caring for people** supported two different interpretations of the respective responsibilities of local authorities and health authorities for meeting the costs of nursing home fees. If one agency refuses to discharge what the other agency regards as its proper responsibilities, then there is "likely to be a failure of services to provide the requisite level of care."

Disabled Persons Act

ACT NOW, a consortium of more than 40 disability organisations, is co-ordinating a national campaign to reverse the recently announced Government decision not to implement sections 1,2,3 and 7 of the Disabled Persons Act 1986. This will include a

delegation to the Prime Minister and the lobbying of Parliament on July 8th, the fifth anniversary of the Bill's enactment. ACT NOW estimates the cost of implementing the provisions on representation to be less than £6 million. The Government disagrees; its own estimate is £18 million. Further details from Mary Holland, RADAR, 25 Mortimer St., London W1N 8AB. Tel: 071-637 5400.

Waiting lists

Reporting on an inquiry triggered by the withdrawal of the Inter Authority Comparisons Consultancy from a major NHS waiting list project, the House of Commons Health Committee has said that it could find no evidence to contradict John Yates' view that the £119 million made available through the waiting list fund between 1987-8 and 1990-1 could have been better spent. The committee compared waiting list reductions in districts using IACC methods with those achieved elsewhere and concluded that NHS would do well to adopt the IACC methods throughout the country. It also expressed concern that not enough money might be available to cover extra-contractual GPs' referrals seeking to take advantage of hospitals with shorter waiting lists. **Public expenditure on health services: waiting lists.** HMSO £8.90

FROM THE JOURNALS

Medical negligence claims

According to research reported in the latest issue of the **Journal of the Medical Defence Union**, a third of all settled claims against the NHS hospital service relate to obstetrics and gynaecology. Within the speciality 31% of claims are started following the birth of a brain-damaged infant; 5% are started because of retained swabs or surgical instruments. These statistics are reversed for completed claims. Under 10% of all settlements are made in compensation for the birth of a brain-damaged baby. As the article points out, it is much easier to establish negligence in one kind of case rather than the other. Claims notified and claims settled match more closely for other categories of claim such as perinatal death or perioperative injury. **Journal of the MDU vol 7 no 2 1991.**

AROUND THE CHCs

Monitoring complaints

Newham CHC has designed a complaints monitoring form. Henceforth anyone who makes a complaint about local health services through the CHC will be invited to complete a short questionnaire. Newham hopes that the systematic monitoring of complaints will enable it to identify those sections of the population most likely to benefit from the services the CHC offers.

Dental laboratory standards

Winchester CHC is providing two lay members for Denplan's national dental laboratory accreditation scheme. The accreditation panel, which meets in Winchester, should help to improve standards in dental laboratories undertaking NHS work. The CHC has also received an invitation to provide a lay member for Denplan's peer review scheme.

Toxoplasmosis

Eastbourne CHC has set up a working group to look at ways of increasing public awareness of toxoplasmosis. The group includes representatives from the CHC, Health Education Department, Department of Community Medicine and the local authority Environmental Health Department. The working group would like to hear from other CHCs undertaking or planning to undertake a similar initiative in their own areas.

Mergers

Trent Regional Health Authority is proposing to merge Bassetlaw and Central Nottinghamshire Health Authorities. In its formal response to the consultation on the proposal, Bassetlaw CHC opposed the merger because "it represents a threat to present services and future capital developments within Bassetlaw". As part of its background work on the consultation, the CHC prepared a briefing paper on the possible impact of the merger on the pattern of GP referrals to hospital. Both documents, the formal response and the briefing paper on GP referrals, are available from the CHC.

DispatCHC

Parkside has launched the first issue of what it hopes will be a quarterly health news bulletin. DispatCHC no.1 contains information and news on CHC activities and current NHS Trust applications in Parkside Health Authority. The CHC hopes to encourage other local health-related organisations to use the bulletin as a way of disseminating information and views.

Women's health

Salford CHC, in co-operation with Salford Women's Health Forum, has translated its guide to **Health services for women in Salford** into Bengali and Arabic. Cost £2.50

Removal from GP lists

The removal of patients from a GP's list is effective eight days after receipt by the Family Health Service Authority of a letter from the GP requesting removal. Sometimes GPs write to patients in advance of the formal removal procedure advising them to seek another GP or simply telling them that they are being removed from the list. Lancaster CHC raised this matter with the FHSA arguing that "such letters can cause unnecessary alarm, especially where the patient is in need of regular medication or certification, and can lead the patient to imagine that he or she has no medical cover available from that moment." Lancaster FHSA has now advised all its GPs that such letters should state clearly that the patient is entitled to care from the practice until formal notification has been received from the FHSA and the eight day period of notice has expired.

CHC PUBLICATIONS

Southend District CHC has published a report of a study of **Homelessness and health**. The original work for the project was undertaken in 1987. The report includes a general discussion of the connection between health and homelessness, information on the extent of the problem in Southend, reports of interviews with local service managers and also of visits to local facilities for the homeless.

Also from Southend CHC is a report of a public meeting to discuss an application to establish an NHS Trust for Southend Community Care Services. An appendix to the report lists 54 questions that the CHC addressed to the Regional Health Authority in order to evaluate the application.

The North Western Regional Association of CHCs has completed a study of **The impact of changes in the NHS on the development of Community Health Councils in the North West**. What changes will CHCs have to make in order "to continue to provide a user perspective on services" within a changed NHS? As an answer to this question, the project report aims to: "provide examples of good practice for CHCs in carrying out consumer satisfaction projects in conjunction with DHAs and FHSAs; evaluate procedures

for using complaints to provide information for the redesign of services; evaluate the options available for the development of consumer networks by CHCs, DHAs and FHSAs; identify key elements which might form the basis for a Charter of Patients' Rights within the contracting environment; prepare a training package for CHC staff and members on the contracting system and the options available to CHCs to carry out effective monitoring; identify the main priorities for CHCs to address, and to examine with CHCs the implications of the implementation of these priorities; prepare a draft strategy for the future of CHCs within the North Western Region, and to consider within this strategy the setting of standards for CHCs and audit of CHC performance."

Health matters in South Leeds is a report of a public opinion survey organised by the two Leeds CHCs and the Leeds City Council Health Unit. The report summarises the views of residents in 10 wards about health services, environment and lifestyle. "The questionnaire was not designed to prove any hypotheses about need, but to contribute towards an agenda for public discussion and for planning health services and wider health initiatives in South Leeds." The decision to undertake the study was prompted by the decision of Leeds Eastern Health Authority to close the only NHS hospital in South Leeds and the conviction that this part of the city did not have its fair share of health services facilities.

Leeds Western CHC has published a report of a **Day hospital survey**. The aim of the survey was to ascertain the views of patients and carers on the quality of services offered by the Day Hospital for the Elderly at Wharfedale General Hospital. "The survey was small-scale due to time constraints, and, therefore the views expressed cannot be seen as representative of all users of the day hospital, but can nevertheless be regarded as a useful sample of consumer opinion."

Health related self-help groups in Leeds 1991 is the third edition of a directory of local groups which provide information, help and support on a wide range of health issues.

High and dry is a report from East Herts CHC on local health services provision for drug and alcohol misusers. The report's conclusions, which are critical of current provision, are based mainly on a trawl of relevant statistics and interviews with workers from statutory and voluntary agencies.

Mid Essex CHC has published **A simple guide to using your health service**. It is one of the few CHC guides which carries advertisements for local businesses.

Stockport CHC has produced a report on discharge procedures for patients who are admitted to hospital because of a self-

administered drug overdose. The report concludes that this group of patients "requires improved and expanded services, as well as further investigation". It also makes detailed recommendations on discharge procedures.

In December 1990 Barking, Havering & Brentwood CHC conducted a survey of elderly people discharged from acute wards in Harold Wood and Oldchurch Hospitals. The report of the survey tabulates the results and highlights some of the lacunae in aftercare provision. The full questionnaire is included as an appendix.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Day surgery

In its recent report on day surgery, **A short cut to better services: day surgery in England & Wales**, the Audit Commission stressed the importance of monitoring patients' perceptions of the day surgery services they received. Because there was no tool readily available for this purpose, the Commission asked the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to develop a questionnaire which would be "simple to use and useful to managers and clinicians alike." **Measuring quality: the patient's view of day surgery** offers a brief explanation of the part played by the idea of quality in the evaluation of health care services, describes how the School of Hygiene day surgery questionnaire was developed, and explains how it should be used. The questionnaire itself is an appendix to the report. The Commission has also developed a computer package for the coding and analysis of the questionnaires and is planning to set up a national database from the results. **Measuring quality** costs £5.00 and is available through HMSO. Bulk copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from the Audit Commission Publications Section, Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS12 6SU. Tel: 0272 236757.

Peer review and dental care

In an attempt to encourage peer review in dental practice, the Department of Health and Welsh Office are launching a pilot scheme which offers funding for peer review projects by local GPs. Both the Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Education Committee of the General Dental Services Council were asked to prepare advisory documents on the conduct of peer review. **Peer review in general dental practice** contains the GDSC's advice on establishing local peer review projects. Funded and endorsed by the Department of Health, the booklet is available from the British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole St., London W1M 8AL. Tel: 071-935 0875.

Residential care

In September 1989 the Social Services Inspectorate organised a seminar on health care in residential homes for elderly people. The SSI has now summarised the proceedings for publication.

Delivery of health care in residential homes for elderly people: a seminar held on 19 September 1989. Report of the proceedings is available from DSS Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore Middlesex HA7 1AY. Price £4.50.

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

User involvement in mental health services

MIND, as part of its policy development on user involvement throughout the mental health services, has published a list of ten guiding principles. The policy paper **User involvement** explains each of the principles and draws some implications for MIND's activities. The principles are: "(1) Involving users must be central to the activities of mental health agencies, including service providing, purchasing and policy-making bodies; (2) self-definition is all important; (3) no-one is immune from mental distress; (4) the reality of discrimination should be recognised and challenged; (5) all services should aim to empower users by giving them high quality information; (6) individual users should have access to as many service options as possible; (7) services should encourage broad participation through equal opportunities policies that cover service provision as well as recruitment; (8) users should be involved in all stages of planning, running and evaluating services, including policy formation; (9) mental health services should ensure that users feel safe to participate, by introducing effective policies governing confidentiality, complaints and victimisation; (10) translating commitment to user involvement into practice requires resources and specific practical steps." MIND is issuing the paper as a discussion document and welcomes comments from other interested organisations. **User involvement** is available from: MIND, 22 Harley St., London W1N 2ED. Tel: 071-637 0741.

Drug Advisory Committees

In 1985 the Department of Health asked regional health authorities to establish Drug Advisory Committees (DACs) in every health region and district. DACs are expected to ensure that the different agencies working with the problems of drug misuse co-ordinate their efforts. Despite the importance of DACs, there has been no systematic evaluation of their role, organisation and performance until now. **Co-ordinating drug services: the role of Regional and District Drug Advisory Committees** is a report of a

study commissioned by the Department of Health and carried out by the National Local Authority Forum on Drug Misuse and the London Research Centre. The main source of information for the study is a survey of two regional and eight district DACs. Copies of the report are available from: National Local Authority Forum on Drug Misuse, 35 Great Smith St., London SW1P 3BJ. Tel: 071-222 8100.

Hospital waiting lists

The College of Health has published its seventh annual guide to hospital waiting lists. Following recently published Department of Health statistics, the guide estimates that in September 1990 there were 1,131,703 people waiting for in-patient treatment in the UK. This is an increase of 40,000 from September 1989. The figures show very large regional and district variations. As in previous years the guide gives details of waiting list figures for the eight main surgical specialities in every health district and board in the UK. **The guide to hospital waiting lists 1991** costs £8.50 (inc. postage) and is available from the College of Health, St.Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Rd., London E2 9PL. Tel: 081-983 1225.

On the same day that the guide was published, the College launched a telephone information service on waiting lists. The **Helpline**, which will provide up-to-date information on hospital waiting lists, has been set up with funding from the Department of Health's Waiting Time Initiative. Any GP or patient who wants to shorten a long wait for in-patient treatment should ring 081-983 1133 between 10am and 4pm from Monday to Friday.

Hospice services

The 1991 directory of hospice services in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, compiled by the St.Christopher's Hospice Information Service, is available from the Hospice Information Service, 51-59 Lawrie Park Rd., Sydenham, London SE26 6DZ. Tel: 081-778 9252 ext 262.

AIDS & mental handicap

AIDS - a proactive approach to mental handicap is a report of a working party set up under the auspices of the Royal College of Nursing Society of Mental Handicap Nursing. "The advent of AIDS/HIV could easily be used by some sections of society to limit the sexual freedoms of people with a mental handicap. The effect of HIV on the mental handicap community could be devastating - but that is not sufficient excuse for removing hard won personal and social rights. Education about sex and HIV to a level compatible with the person's ability and mental capacity must be seen as a priority". The report is published by Scutari Press and is available from Gazelle Book Services, Falcon House, Queen Square, Lancaster, LA1 1RN. Price £4.95

NHS continuing care

As a response to the disappearance of continuing care beds from the NHS, Age Concern England set up a working group with representatives from both voluntary and professional to consider the future shape of continuing care. As well as a manifesto setting out **Basic principles for working with older people who need care**, the working group has published reports on continuing care. The most recent of these is **Under sentence**, a discussion paper on continuing care units for older people within the NHS. The paper cites evidence that there has been a move of continuing healthcare provision out of the NHS. And yet "there has been no open debate about the issues involved, nor open acknowledgement of the changes which are taking place.....At the moment, continuing NHS care appears to be 'under sentence' without any evidence being heard which could lead to a reasoned verdict. If there is a case for NHS Continuing Care Accommodation, it must be made loudly and it must be made now." Available from: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Rd., London SW16 4ER. Price: £2.00

Local authorities and child care

Both the Children Act 1989 and the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 place major responsibilities on local authority social services departments, and implementation of both acts will be demanding in terms of resources, organisation and practice. **On different tracks**, published by VOPSS, the Voluntary Organisations' Personal Social Services Group, asks whether there are any inconsistencies between these two important pieces of legislation. Available from: VOPSS, c/o Family Service Units, 207 Old Marylebone Rd., London NW1 5QP. Price £2.00 inc. p & p.

Exercise is good for you

The Royal College of Physicians has published its views on **The medical aspects of exercise: risks and benefits**. The report recommends that all health professionals should recognise the physical and psychological benefits of regular exercise, especially in preventing coronary disease and post-menopausal osteoporosis. Doctors should ask patients about exercise and be prepared to give advice on exercise programmes. Available from the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, NW1 4LE, price £8.00 inc p&p.

HIV infection and ethnic minority communities

HIV infection and the black communities: the challenge to local authorities is a report from the Local Authority Associations' Officer Working Group on AIDS. The report is based on the views expressed by delegates to a national seminar held in April 1989 and also those contained in the responses received by the working group to a questionnaire survey of local authority race equality

units and equal opportunity units. Available from: Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 35 Great Smith St., London SW1P 3BJ. Price £5.00.

Women's Health

From boredom to boardroom: helping ourselves to health - the Wirral women's experience is a new video commissioned by the Health Education Authority in order to stimulate and encourage good practice in health promotion in the community. It focusses on four women's involvement in setting up and developing the Wirral Women's Health Network and illustrates how they were able to move away from lives dominated by stress, isolation and lack of support and instead offer help and support to other local women through conferences, courses and health promotion activities. It offers useful insights for CHCs and other voluntary and statutory groups working with the community in terms of stimulating innovative work and involving users in the planning and decision-making processes. There is a particularly interesting episode in the video which looks at ways to get the most out of what could be very intimidating and unproductive meetings with statutory authorities. Available from The Distribution Department, HEA, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9TX. Price £9.95 per copy.

Abuse of the elderly

Age Concern, the British Association of Social Workers, the British Geriatrics Society, the Carers National Association, Help the Aged and the Police Federation of England & Wales have prepared guidelines to help health and social services staff to identify elderly disabled people living in the community who may be subject to abuse or are at risk of abuse. The guidelines also suggest how agencies can work together to protect vulnerable people. **Abuse of elderly people: guidelines for action** is available free of charge on receipt of a 17p SAE (9"x6") from Distribution Services Department, Age Concern England, 1268 London Rd., London SW16 4EJ. Bulk orders cost £22.50 per 100 pamphlets.

Disability issues

The London Boroughs' Disability Resource Team is launching a bi-monthly journal aimed at "local authority officers and members, voluntary organisations, community groups and anyone interested in keeping up with the whys and wherefores of good practice in meeting the needs of disabled people". An annual subscription to **Disability issues** costs £7.20 and is available from London Boroughs DRT, 1st Floor, Bedford House, 125-133 Camden High St., London NW1 7RJ. Tel: 071-482 5305.

Educating visually handicapped children

Visibility is a new magazine for parents and professionals interested in the education of children with impaired vision. The magazine is produced by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and is available free of charge from the RNIB Education and Leisure Division, 224 Great Portland St., London W1N 6AA. Tel: 071-388 1266.

Regional government and the NHS

The Socialist Health Association has produced a short discussion paper on **Regional government and health**. The paper considers the devolutionary implications of the motion on health passed at the 1990 Labour Party Annual Conference. Available from: SHA, 195 Walworth Rd., London SE17 1RP. Tel: 071-703 6939.

FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Ethnic Switchboard was set up in 1988 with the aid of a Government grant to look at problems arising from a lack of qualified interpreters in the NHS. The organisation, which recently drew up a code of practice for interpreters, has been told by the Department of Health that it must now look elsewhere for funding. **The code of practice for interpreters** is available from: Ethnic Study Group, Co-ordinating Centre for Community & Health Care, 2B Lessingham Ave, London SW17 1BU. Price £3.50

INFORMATION WANTED

South Warwickshire CHC would like information from other CHCs about DHA visiting panels. Specifically, information is sought from CHCs who have developed a good relationship with their local panels and who have access to such panels' reports.

Croydon CHC has pointed out that, in the South West Thames region, long stay residents in mental handicap and mental illness hospitals are divided into two groups for funding purposes. Pre-1971 admissions are funded at previous year average costs, whilst post-1971 admissions will have direct contracts with their own districts at negotiated rates. The CHC is interested in knowing whether this is a common situation in other regions in addition

to South West Thames and would like to hear from any CHCs which are aware of this problem.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Promoting choice - consumer health information in the 1990s. A one day conference organised by the Consumer Health Information Consortium. Date: 30th September 1991. Venue: Loughborough University of Technology. Cost: £60 & vat. Further details from: Connie Franks, Welfare Services Librarian, Patients' Library, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Thorne Rd., Doncaster DN2 5LT. Tel: 0302 366666 x7126.

The School for Advanced Urban Studies is holding a series of autumn seminars on health policy issues: **Community care research and community care policy** on 1st - 2nd October; cost £255; **Elderly futures in the 1990s** on 15th October; **Health promotion and the NHS reforms** on 16th - 17th December; cost £275. For further details contact SAUS, Rodney Lodge, Grange Rd., Bristol BS8 4EA. Tel: 0272 741117.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts is holding a one day conference to discuss the future role of the NHS in the registration and inspection of nursing homes. **Nursing homes: future prospects.** Date: 10th July 1991. Venue: New Connaught Rooms, London. Cost £152.75 for non-members.

Action and change: community development approaches to the HIV crisis is a two day conference organised by the National AIDS Manual. Date: 25th - 26th July 1991. Venue: Friends' House, Euston Rd., London. Cost; £100 for employees of V/Os £140 for employees of statutory organisations. Further details from: National AIDS Manual Conference c/o Labyrinth Training, Flat 1, 16 Guildford St., London SW8 2BX. Tel: 071-720 0401.

Quality and contracts in the personal social services. A seminar organised by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Date: 29th July 1991. Venue: Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith St., London SW1. Cost: £90. Further details from: AMA, 35 Great Smith St., London SW1P 3BJ.

Multi-cultural health care and health promotion: meeting the needs of older people. Organised by Age Concern England to mark the launch of an Age Concern report on **Multi-cultural health care and rehabilitation of older people.** Date: 23rd September 1991.

Futher details from: Conference Unit, Age Concern England, 1268 London Rd., London SW16 4ER. Tel: 081-679 8000.

Aspects of disability - ten years on. An international conference to raise awareness of disability issues. Date: 29th August - 2nd September 1991. Further information can be obtained from: Andrina McCormack and Alex Gardner, The Queen's College, Glasgow G3 6LP. Tel: 041-337 4209/4200.

MIND is sponsoring a conference on **Women and mental health**. Date: 17th October 1991. Venue: Institute of Contemporary Arts, London SW1. Cost: £65.

Social concern or social control? The politics of mental health is the title of the 1991 MIND annual conference. Date: 12th - 14th November. Venue: Wintergardens, Blackpool. Cost £125. Further details on all MIND conferences are available from: Conference Secretary, MIND, 22 Harley St., London W1N 2ED. Tel: 071-637 0741.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Page 1 GATESHEAD CHC
Change of address with effect from 19th June to:

36 Trinity Square
Gateshead
NE8 1AW
Tel: (091) 4773565

NEWCASTLE CHC

Acting Secretary : Moira Carr

NORTHUMBERLAND CHC

FAX: 521870

Page 3 BRADFORD CHC

Secretary: Lesley Rodley

Page 8 WEST NORFOLK & WISBECH

Acting Secretary: Edith Travell

Page 14 MAIDSTONE CHC

Chief Officer: Mrs Jean Jones

WEST LAMBETH CHC

Secretary: Shelley Eugene

Page 20 EXETER & DISTRICT CHC

Change of address with effect from 17.06.91

Suite II

Quintana Gate

Barthlowomew Street East

Exeter EX4 3BH

Tel. No. & Fax No. : UNCHANGED

GLOUCESTER DISTRICT CHC

Secretary/Chief Officer: Miss Julie Feltham

Page 25 CREWE CHC

Chief Officer: Mrs Judith Griffiths

CORRECTION

CHNEWS 61 misreported the telephone number for the **Help for Health Trust**. The correct number is: 0962 849100.