

Mrs Maderson
Ms O'Brien

From: Linda Johnson-Laird

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cc: Mr Tyrrell
Mr Dunlevy

REGIONAL REVIEW: WEST MIDLANDS: HIV/AIDS PRE MEETING AGENDA

1. This minute is in response to David Hewlett's minute of 1 September and Mr Shaw's minute of 21 August asking for briefing on agenda items listed in Annex A for the pre review meeting, which in the case of W Midlands is due to take place on 15 October. I should point out that our chief mechanism for monitoring Regions' performance and plans on HIV/AIDS is the AIDS (Control) Act Reports which are due by 1 August each year. These summarise developments during the preceding year in services, prevention, infection control and expenditure of earmarked resources and outline priorities for future developments according to guidelines issued each Spring.

2. While we would not expect HIV/AIDS to feature as an agenda item at the review itself (a view endorsed in Annex A of Mr Shaw's paper) it seems appropriate to provide short briefing on Region's progress as evidenced in the AIDS (Control) Act report we have received, especially in the light of HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health being highlighted as a key target area in 'Health of the Nation'. I will of course be scrutinising all Regions AIDS (Control) Act Reports in more detail in preparation for an overview for the NHSME and feedback on individual reports to the Regions concerned. The following is therefore a brief summary of the main areas outlined in the report.

3. West Midlands Region, in its overview on monitoring and surveillance, devotes a section on the HIV and STD areas of the White Paper 'Health of the Nation'. Region states agreement with the high priority accorded to HIV/AIDS/STDs in that document and sets out by what means the targets can be achieved Regionwide. These areas include prevention, monitoring, surveillance and research, and treatment, care and support. Region was already encouraging HIV prevention work in the context of sexual health but acknowledge that this will be boosted by the White Paper. Region's overview is presented in the format of tasks achieved during 1991/92 together with priorities for 1992/93 in each category. GUM clinics are to be encouraged to reach their full potential in the light of Health of the Nation, and the targets also feature throughout the report. The siting of HIV/AIDS/drugs administration on one site has helped to integrate activities across the Region in a coherent way. Joint working is well developed. Region recognises that more needs to be done on community care plans and does not shrink from the issues around this which need to be addressed in the coming months.

4. Financial allocations reflect an overall underspend of over £2 million which has been carried forward for use in 1992/93. The use of these resources will need very careful handling.

5. Overall this report is very much a regional one and with some notable exceptions does not provide a clear picture of activity within the individual districts. Region's main task will be to translate its own clear vision into activity by all districts.

Good Points

- * Explicit references to 'Health of the Nation' targets
- * Explicit strategy and supporting strategic guidelines.
- * Support to DHPCs/purchaser.
- * Ring-fenced allocation to protect programme of work.
- * Gay men/black and minority ethnic communities - interesting work is being developed in these important areas.
- * Research and evaluation programme welcome.

Areas where more information is needed include local needs assessment; district based 3 year prevention programmes; narrative on local prevention activity; 50% of DHAs lack a District HIV Prevention Coordinator appointment (deadline was March 1992). These points will be followed up with Region in due course.

GRO-C

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