



Wellington house 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG Telephone 0171 972 2000
Direct line 0171 972

David Hierons
Director of Planning and Development
The Village Charity
25 Richmond Street
Manchester
M1 3NB

27 November 1995

Dear Mr Hierons

WORLD AIDS DAY - THE GREATER MANCHESTER INITIATIVE

Stephen Dorrell has shown me your letter of 2 November about the launch of the Greater Manchester World AIDS Day initiative. As Minister with policy responsibility for HIV and AIDS, I am happy to send you a message of support.

The challenges posed by HIV and AIDS require a response from all of us. I am therefore pleased to see that this initiative involves the statutory, voluntary and private sectors working together to get the World AIDS Day message across.

The theme for World AIDS day this year, "Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities", highlights the fact that it is up to all of us to educate people against the view that HIV and AIDS are other peoples problems. The concerted approach we have taken spanning Government, the NHS, local authorities, and the voluntary sector has resulted in the UK having one of the lowest estimated AIDS prevalence rates in Western Europe. But we cannot afford to be complacent. If we are to maintain this position we must keep up the momentum of our prevention work.

My congratulations to you all for coming up with such an innovative way to draw people's attention to this important issue. I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely

GRO C

BARONESS CUMBERLEGE

cc Liz Woodeson
Alma Mithani
Charles Lister

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE NATION