

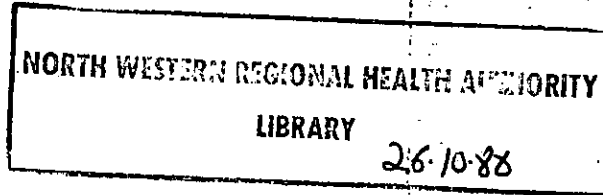


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
ALEXANDER FLEMING HOUSE
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LONDON SE1 6BY

TELEPHONE 01-407 5522 EXT

4/12/88
8/16/18/2

Your reference
Our reference



EL(88)P/172

To: Regional General Managers - for action
District General Managers - for information
Special Health Authority Managers (General Managers of the
Hammersmith Hospital and Queen Charlotte's Hospital and of
the Hospitals for Sick Children) - for action

20th October 1988

Dear General Manager

MATERNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Dear General Manager letter DA(85)32 asked all Health Authorities to report on their initial progress in implementing the three reports of the Maternity Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). Ministers had previously commended the Reports to health authorities in Dear Administrator letters DA(84)4 and DA(85)4 and made clear their intention to follow up issues arising from implementation of the recommendations.
2. Ministers have now decided in consultation with Regional General Managers that a further review of progress in the implementation of the MSAC recommendations should take place and have informed the Social Services Select Committee accordingly. Replies to DA(85)32 showed that while most health authorities had taken steps to improve their maternity and neonatal services in the light of the MSAC reports, there was still room for further improvement. The rise in the infant mortality rate in 1986, although not sustained in 1987, has highlighted the need for sustained improvement and there has recently been significant Parliamentary interest in the subject.
3. This second review will build on the baseline of information gathered in 1985 and will permit appropriate consideration of these subjects within the Regional review process. As before, information is required:

- to establish each Region's relative performance in a national context;
- to identify aspects of policy implementation which may be helped by action taken by interested professional organisations;

- to review overall policy objectives in the light of practical experience of their implementation or non-implementation;

- to inform Departmental consideration of the future resource position.

4. The annex to this letter sets out questions to focus the review on certain critical issues in the MSAC reports. The intention is to expand on the questions asked in DA(85)32 and also to obtain information about additional key subjects. The questions are prefaced by a brief outline of the MSAC recommendations on each subject.

5. Regional General Managers in the Thames Regions will wish to note that the General Managers of the Hammersmith Hospital and Queen Charlotte's Hospital and of the Hospitals for Sick Children, are also being asked to provide a response about their activities in this area.

6. This letter is being copied to Mr D Blythe at the Inter-Regional Secretariat.

ACTION

7. Each Regional and Special Health Authority General Manager is requested to co-ordinate replies to the questions in Annex 1 and to supply a response to each of the questions to: Department of Health, Room B1311, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY by 31 December 1988.

Yours sincerely

J C Middleton.

J C MIDDLETON
CMP1

This letter will be cancelled and deleted from the Communications Index on 30 June 1989.

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