

To: Chief Executives of Health Authorities
 Chief Executives of NHS Trusts
 Chairmen of Health Authorities
 Chairmen of NHS Trusts
 General Medical Practitioners
 Directors of Social Services
 Local Dental Committees
 Local Pharmaceutical Committees
 Local Optical Committees

(5 copies)
 (5 copies)

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WARRINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE (NHS) TRUST
 DIRECTORATE
 13 NOV 1996
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 WARRINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE (NHS) TRUST
 13 NOV 1996

Copy: General Dental Practitioners (leaflet only)
 Community Pharmacists "
 Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners "
 Ophthalmic Opticians "
 Dispensing Opticians "

EL(96)96

13 November 1996

Dear Colleague,

A SERVICE WITH AMBITIONS: NHS WHITE PAPER

1. I enclose with this letter a copy of "The NHS: A Service with Ambitions", a White Paper published today by the Government, and a leaflet giving the key messages. I consider "A Service with Ambitions" to be a very important statement for the future NHS. I urge you to spend time reading it, discussing it with your colleagues and considering how to contribute to the development of the NHS in the direction it sets out.
2. The strategic objectives of the NHS set out in this White Paper are for a well-informed public, a seamless service working across boundaries, a highly trained and skilled workforce, for knowledge-based decision-making and for a service that is responsive, sensitive to differing needs. These longer-term objectives demonstrate a high degree of consistency with the medium-term priorities set out in June 1996 in the Priorities and Planning Guidance for 1997/98 (EL(96)45), and I expect to see the objectives in this White Paper reflected in planning priorities for the NHS over the coming years.
3. The responsibility for implementing the objectives and achieving the ambitions set out rests with everyone working in the NHS, professional and management staff alike, particularly those working in direct contact with patients. I expect every management team, in Health Authorities and NHS Trusts and in primary care, to consider how their plans for the future can contribute to the achievement of these objectives and ambitions. But the White Paper also outlines three areas where national leadership is required to make real progress. These areas are *information*, *professional development* and *managing for quality*.

4. In each of these areas named individuals will be seeking views from the NHS and other agencies about how work in these areas can be taken forward. These views and insights will be discussed in detail over the coming months. I hope you will take part in this dialogue in whatever way you can.
5. In the meantime, if you would like to give your views on these issues, or on "A Service with Ambitions" more generally, please write to

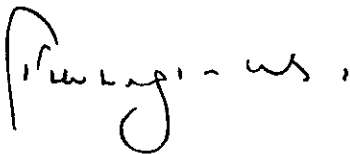
Information: Barry Slater, Head of Quality and Consumer Affairs,
Room 4W14, Quarry House

Professional Development: Mike Deegan, Deputy Director of Human Resources,
Room 2E64, Quarry House

Managing for Quality: Gillian Chapman, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer,
Room 611B, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall,
LONDON SW1 2NS

A Service with Ambitions Kirsty Jarvie, Strategy Development Team, c/o Room
4W55, Quarry House

Yours sincerely



ALAN LANGLANDS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Further copies of "A Service with Ambitions" are available from The Stationery Office bookshops, price £8.25.

Further copies of the leaflet are available by phoning 0800 555 777* or by writing to:

Department of Health
PO Box 410
Wetherby
LS23 7LN

or visit our website: <http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/ambition.htm>

* 0800 calls made on operator network other than BT may be charged for.