

Funding has been on piecemeal grants from health, Social Services and other sources. Secretarial and administrative help comes from various organisations represented in the consortium. The consortium generates ideas for improving the service. Local people identify with and help to build it. It has proved so successful that similar groups known as "Fora" have been built into other care groups now included within the local Community Unit of the District Health Authority to assist in forward planning.

The recognition of the views of the consortium in the formal planning of health and social services has guaranteed its continuing influence. It was revitalised with the formation of the sub-groups which promoted the involvement of a greater variety of people. The sub-groups do best when they have set goals to try to achieve. Their life will probably wax and wane and new groups may be necessary as service needs change. Although the consortium is seen as part of the formal organisation of the community service, it is important that it maintains an independent voice

and continues to have an advocacy role on behalf of its care group.

Portsmouth, enclosed by the sea and with its traditional mental hospital placed within the city, is well placed to adopt a community approach. The life of the consortium may be determined by the enthusiasm and involvement of its members. The idea of the consortium is being promoted among other care groups and it will be interesting to see whether the same style of multidisciplinary participation and energy can be replicated.

Acknowledgements

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References

FREEMAN, H. (1962) The Portsmouth Mental Health Service 1926-1952; an historical note. *The Medical Officer*, March, 119-151.

Lecture

The Portman Clinic annual Edward Glover Lecture will be given by Professor John C. Gunn, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry on *The Politics of Personality Disorder* on 26 October 1992 at 8.30 p.m. at the Edward Lewis Theatre, Windeyer Building, University College & Middlesex School of Medicine, 41 Cleveland Street, London W1.

Admission by ticket only; applications to: Mrs P. Harrington, Admin. Secretary, Portman Clinic, 8 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 5NA (telephone 071 794 8262). Any other information: Mr C. Fishman, Principal Adult Psychotherapist, at the same address.

European Network for Mental Service Evaluation (ENMESH)

In collaboration with the European Office of the World Health Organisation, a European Network for Mental Service Evaluation (ENMESH) is now being established. Active researchers in the field are invited to request a registration form to join the network from

Dr Aart Schene (ENMESH Secretary), Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Academisch Medisch Centrum, Polikliniek Psychiatrie, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ, Amsterdam (ZO), The Netherlands.