

to have more rapid response rates to emergency requests, which must, we feel, be related to their continual preoccupation with organising their services to take account of geography and population dispersal. No county in the present study employed a crisis intervention team (CIT) to meet requests for emergency services. Crisis teams are almost exclusively provided by boroughs. A number of authorities still have more ASWs who are approved than active. This may be the result of their blanketing in all members of staff in the early days of the operation of the Act. In some cases the authority still aims to approve as many staff as possible, but many have now found the appropriate level. London boroughs still have nearly 10% more ASWs approved than active, double the number of inactive ASWs in other types of authority. The range in the number of active ASWs seems to be unjustifiable, even if a case can be made out for London boroughs and some inner cities in other parts of the country having higher rates to respond to the greater frequency of emergency requests produced by such areas.

The number of additional services upon which the ASW can draw was unevenly distributed with very few authorities providing an adequate service over the whole authority. Of most concern is the lack of

availability of translation services and ethnic minority workers. Inadequate escort services and other forms of transport are also common, especially in rural areas.

Finally, it appears that joint work with health, facilitated by a sectorised health service, in a co-terminous authority, provides the best chance of a quality outcome for clients of psychiatric emergency services.

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References

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Defeat Depression Campaign

The Defeat Depression Campaign launched, on 28 April 1993, the first of its leaflets for the general public, on *Depression in the Elderly*. This is the first in the series of leaflets which the Campaign, in association with the College's Public Education Committee, hopes to release twice a year. Individual copies of the leaflet are available from the College on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

