

# Manchester

## MINDNEWS

june 1991

MINDNEWS is the occasional newsletter of Manchester MIND. It is distributed freely to people in Manchester. If you wish to make a contribution to this newsletter either by writing an article or helping in its production then please contact Nigel Rose c/o Manchester MIND P.O. Box 451, Manchester, M60 1GY, Tel: 061 236 9316.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Over the next year Manchester MIND will be organising a series of public meetings. The suggested topics of the meetings are:

- EATING DISORDERS
- COMMUNITY CARERS
- PSYCHOTIC EXPERIENCE
- MAJOR TRANQUILLISERS

There will be two or three speakers at each one, and the rest of the time will be open for discussion. The aim is to bring people with similar concerns into contact with each other, to distribute information, to evaluate services, and where such services are lacking hopefully to establish groups who may be of use to others in the same situation. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings either as a participant or as an observer. If you are interested in helping to organise these public meetings please leave your name, telephone number and contact address on MIND's ansaphone.

### RE-ESTABLISHED SUPPORT FROM THE COUNCIL

Because of the strain of the poll tax, Manchester City Council were considering withdrawing the annual grant which they provide Manchester MIND with. This grant is less than £500 but none-the-less makes up 15% of MIND's income. Fortunately due to communications between Tony Riley and Councillor Harrison, the grant is to be maintained. This financial support from the council helps to take away pressure to spend disproportionate amounts of time on extra fundraising and allows energies to be more directly involved in work on mental health. However many other voluntary groups, which provide vital mental health services in Manchester

face at minimum 10% cuts. Manchester City Council needs to realise that many of these voluntary groups provide more cost-effective, local and appropriate services than the city council and *should* be given better resources.

### MENTAL HEALTH SPECIFIC GRANT

This is a grant that the Social Services receive from the Department of Health on the condition that Manchester City Council pay a third of it. The full amount is worth 333,000 and is being spent roughly as follows:

- £150,000 for a housing consortium employing development officers and referral workers to help clients in getting accommodation.
- £84,000 for respite services for carers of elderly people with mental health difficulties.
- £82,000 to establish informal day services, such as drop in centres, through the social services department.
- £25,000 for the Afro-Caribbean mental health project to employ a case worker.

### INROADS INTO EMPLOYMENT

"Inroads" is an organisation that was set up by MIND to help people who have been through the mental health system in finding work in the face of the prejudice which they all too often come up against. They offer support and advice on looking for jobs, interview techniques, work placements, and welfare benefits. Inroads is funded by North Manchester Health Authority where they are based, the Tudor Trust, and Telethon. They have this funding for the next two years in which time they will be linking with employers to develop work experience placements, and to establish outreach services. Unfortunately this service is restricted to North Manchester because of funding. Hopefully this will be extended to the rest of the city, but is unlikely to happen until the two years is up. Half of their time is concerned with individual work and half with researching the need for the kind of services which they are promoting. They will use the information gained from this research to present a proposal to the Health Authority for more extensive funding.