Information exchange

Information exchange exists as part of our commitment to networking and nursing empowerment. If you need to know something the answer should be out there somewhere. Geographical isolation should not entail professional isolation. Address your queries to Information Exchange — and readers, do help enquirers if you can. And let us know if your request leads you to information that would be useful to the wider world of nursing.

I am working on a study to examine the key issues surrounding nurses’ mobility within the EC. I would like to hear from Registered General Nurses and Midwives who have worked within the EC between 1979 and 1983.

Mary Ness BA, RGN, HV Policy Research Unit Leeds Metropolitan University 18 Queen Square Leeds LS2 8AJ Tel: 0532 832600, ext 3913

I am researching the feasibility of introducing an ENT specialist nurse to care for people prior to admission and after discharge following major head and neck surgery. I feel the facially disfigured, and those who have had operations such as laryngectomies and tracheostomies, deserve individualised specialist care to help them cope with the tremendous adjustment necessitated by their surgery or illness.

I also feel there is a need for a named nurse from any area in the health authority to be contactable for advice concerning tracheostomy care. I am interested in hearing from anybody who has done similar work and could share their opinions on the necessity of this service.

Sadie Hicks RGN, Dip Health Studies Staff Nurse Bettws Ward Greenbank Hospital Plymouth

As part of our centenary celebrations, a grand reunion for former pupils and staff of Milham Ford School, Oxford, will be held on Saturday, June 26 1993, from 2pm to 5.30pm.

For further information, please send an sae to: Centenary Celebrations, Milham Ford School, Haberton Mead, Oxford OX3 0DF.

Sue Keable

I have recently been awarded funding by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to explore the experiences of former mental health service users who are, or become, workers in mainstream services providing community care.

I am a former user of the service, and a mental health worker. As a qualified social worker, I have access to people working in social services departments and the voluntary sector, but I am anxious not to exclude the experiences of people working in the nursing profession.

My research aims to produce good practice guidelines giving information to employers and providing support for user-workers.

I would like to hear from any user-worker, including those currently in training or unemployed.

I hope to interview some people, and to receive written information from others. Confidentiality will be scrupulously observed.

Susan Rooke Matthews 8 Woodland Road Bristol BS8 1TN

I am a third year nursing studies student, and I want to research the problem of sexual harassment at work or as a result of work.

Perpetrators may be a patient, a doctor or another health care professional, and the harassment may include suggestive comments, touching or more serious offences.

Respondents may be male or female nurses, or former nurses, who are willing to complete a questionnaire. Confidentiality will be maintained.

I realise this may prove distressing, but feel it is necessary to raise awareness of the problem before it can be tackled. Please send your name and address to me.

Juliet Baker 38 Cranbrook Avenue Hull HU6 7SN

Help at hand for nurse placement

After reading about the problems encountered by Annette Millage in her quest to further her children’s nurse training (Information exchange, October 7), I suggest that anybody in a similar position may obtain help by contacting the Nurse Teachers Group of the British Association of British Paediatric Nurses.

It can be contacted via the main Association of British Paediatric Nurses, PO Box 14, Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire, OL5 9WW. Tel 0893 9277342.

S Gill Lecturer in Nursing Studies (Paediatrics) Birmingham

Careers item created wrong impression

I would like to correct the impression given in the In Brief item (News, September 23) reporting the careers event organised by staff at the Newcastle College of Health Studies. The article stated that ‘job shortages for final year Project 2000 students forced tutors to hold a careers convention’.

Staff at the college share the concern of many over the employment prospects of students upon qualifying. However, to say that tutors were forced to hold this event gives a false impression.

The event was conceived almost 18 months ago as a positive move towards securing a first step on the nursing career ladder for our students, highlighting the full range of career opportunities with a range of organisations.

Christopher Taylor Marketing Manager Newcastle College of Health Studies

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