

Journal of Adolescent Health & Welfare



VOLUME 3 NO 3 AUTUMN 1990

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**THE BRITISH "JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELFARE" is the journal
of the Youth Support "Forum on Adolescent Health and Welfare".**

**PUBLISHED BY YOUTH SUPPORT
30 CRYSTAL PALACE PARK ROAD; LONDON SE26 6UG**

CHARITY NO 296080

Youth Support has had a very exciting and profitable year. The most important development has been the opening of Youth Support House but work has moved forward on a number of fronts.

Many of the activities of Youth Support seem to be planned around an academic year (ie september to july) hence it seemed appropriate to produce our annual report in the autumn rather than in january. This year the report is being produced as the autumn edition of our journal so that forum members are kept up to date with our news.

* * * * *

Youth Support Forum on Adolescent Health and Welfare

Our forum was born at our second public meeting in October 1987 as a result of discussions with colleagues who expressed a desire to have a professional body in the British Isles concerned with the health and welfare of young people.

The forum is multidisciplinary - currently members are from medical, nursing, teaching, social work, family planning, psychiatry, and a number of other disciplines. We have several professional groups and centres affiliated to us and our mailing list now runs to over 1,000 people and organisations.

Our work with the forum has confirmed our views that much of adolescent care in this country is provided on an ad hoc basis by small charitable groups all acting independantly, all reinventing the wheel and all lacking support. These groups need a professional forum where they can come together, discuss, share ideas and support each other.

The forum publishes a small "Journal of Adolescent Health and Welfare" four

times a year and we are now into our third volume. Articles are welcome from members and other interested parties, including young people themselves and their families. A regular feature 'The voice of Youth' has so far carried articles by young mothers and soviet teenagers.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH

--extracts from letters recieved from young parents.

* * *

Maria - who lived in Roy Heasman house while she was a pregnant schoolgirl and then squatted in the semi derelict flat where she still finds herself four years later.

".... I sometimes fall into depression phases. I am 21 years of age and have two children aged 5 and aged 3 both boys. I've already accepted the fact that I have been handed a raw deal in life but I don't believe tha one thing I have wanted out of life is so hard to get, a decent flat 'in'a decent area to bring my kids up in. So far no one is willing to give me any help as to transferring me or helping me make the flat I have more decent by offering decorating grants etc. If you can help me with my problem I would sincerely appreciate it - if not you'll forgive me for wasting your time ..."

* * *

Ann has been in contact with us for nearly nine years. Her first baby was born when she was fifteen, she was deserted by her 'husband', beaten by her boyfriend, moved home and squat many times before settling in a delapidated flat. When last seen she was about to give birth to her second child, had separated with her boyfriend and we had helped her refurbish her flat and obtain day care for her child. Ann is content with very little, she never complains although she is bringing up her children on social security paynebts alone.

"I am very happy and contented. I now have three children and seem to be coping very well. I am involved in my daughter's nursery and my son's school. My children take up most of my time as they are very active. I have recently had a stillborn baby but the children helped me overcome this ..."

* * *

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE "YOUTH SUPPORT" "FORUM ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELFARE"

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND SEND to:-
YOUTH SUPPORT 30 Crystal Palace Park Road SE26 6UG
Cheques payable to YOUTH SUPPORT
I would like to join the "FORUM ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELFARE" I enclose £20 registration fee which covers my first years membership (journal included in cost).

NAME POSITION.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
.....PHONE.....

Forum meetings take place once a year at the Royal Society of Medicine and then occasionally at other venues and in other parts of the country. Reports of these meetings have appeared in the journal covering topics such as Teenage pregnancy, teenage suicide, sport and the Young, Contraceptive services, the voluntary sector, the NSPCC and Childline, Youth Scan, Adopting a teenager and HIV infection in the young.

YOUTH SUPPORT COURSES AND STAFF TRAINING

OCTOBER 1990

Youth Support 5th Annual Meeting Friday 26th October. Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London WC1. 6pm - 9pm. "Teenage Motherhood - A Problem of Society?" £5.00 entry fee.

Child Abuse & Protection Workshops - "Coping with our Feelings" A series of afternoon workshops dealing with the emotional side of abuse, How do we cope as professionals?

All on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

- Wed 3rd October - Emotional Abuse, The Scars
- Wed 17th October - Working with Families, How not to continue the abuse
- Wed 7th November - Coping with Feelings about Abusers
- Wed 21st November - Looking at Ourselves, Parental Messages.

The four sessions may be taken individually but participants would benefit from attendance at all four on a continuation. Fee £20 per person per session or £60 for block of four.

Numbers strictly limited - please apply early.

Suitable for members of helping professions and anyone involved in dealing with the public.

Aids and the Young Day conference - Wed 27th February 1991. At The R Brooks Centre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital - further details on application.

For all courses please apply to: Youth Support House
13 Crescent Road
Beckenham
Kent BR3 2NF
Telephone: 081 650 6296

Cheques made payable to: Youth Support
Charity No. 296080

Firm bookings with remittance.

Name Tel No

Address

.....

Designation

.....

Booking For

Outreach service and Training

Youth Support has the following philosophy regarding staff training:- We can only reach so many young people each year - to maximise our effect on the welfare of youth we must speak to groups of professionals and so 'extend our net'.

Diana Birch spends a great deal of time lecturing to groups of professionals in different parts of the country and even abroad:- social workers, doctors, obstetricians, family planning staff, teachers and also talking to young people in centres and schools. An important extension of this service is the provision of workshops and seminars at Youth Support.

Outreach for the young involves follow up of clients and patients, home visits and school visits helping young people to function in their home environments.

We are compiling a **directory** of services for young people with addresses of contacts in different parts of the country which can be accessed by a **telephone help line** for forum members and others.

This directory had a pilot test run in May when our telephone number was publicised in Woman magazine, we had distraught teenagers and parents telephoning from Scotland, Ireland and practically every part of the British Isles, unable to find local services.

Youth Support continues to be associated with the Family planning association where we have spoken about Youth Support's work with teenage mothers and the Brook advisory centres where we have input to the Medical advisory board. We have also built links with the Society of Public health and Faculty of Community Health and are planning a joint conference on AIDS and HIV in the young for early 1991 as well as joining the conference on Child abuse with reference to the

1989 children's act in Coventry in October..

The International Planned Parenthood Federation have been very helpful in joining our discussions from time to time and in hosting groups of our teenagers for sex education sessions.

Youth Support House

A caring community, tailored to the needs of young people.

We aim to provide the sort of residential placement which will not harm or 'institutionalise'. Our young people will be equipped with the skills which they will need in order to survive and succeed in our 'modern' world.

We are now in the 'caring nineties' - did you know that?! Nevertheless places like ours are still needed. If you care - help us to continue supporting youth.

Inquiries regarding placements of residents or day cases to
YOUTH SUPPORT HOUSE 081 650 6296.

HORIZON

*examines the global problem
of teenage pregnancy*

Publicity and Media attention

Youth support have been involved in a great many television and radio programmes. This year we featured in 'The Child Mothers' a Horizon documentary exploring the effect of society on the outcome and prognosis of a teenage pregnancy. The programme went out on 4th June. (rescheduled from the publicised 21st May - we were bumped off by 'mad cow disease!') We also had some media attention after a reporter picked up a lecture on 'Training stresses in children' delivered at the sport's medicine conference in Manchester. We were subsequently asked to comment on the psychological stresses for the young of some forms of Martial arts.



The Child Mothers



**MONDAY 21st MAY 8.10pm BBC2
REPEATED 24th MAY 5.10pm BBC2**



'Are You My Sister, Mummy?' reports the findings of over ten years work with more than 150 very young girls, their boyfriends, families and children, telling their poignant stories in a compassionate and empathetic manner.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No: _____

enclose £ _____ in payment for the following:

FORUM MEMBERSHIP £20 per annum _____ £ _____

Copies

"ARE YOU MY SISTER, MUMMY" @£10 = £ _____

Past Issues of the journal - We now have 10 past issues - copies are available at £10 per set.

Don't Forget - Youth Support 'T' shirts and sweat shirts are available from the office priced £5 and £10 respectively. State size.

Youth Support International

USA / SAM - We continue to be involved in the United States Society for Adolescent medicine meetings. Usually these coincide with meetings of the International Association for Adolescent Health committee meetings and so provide an important forum for discussion and interchange of ideas. The SAM meeting this year was in Atlanta, Georgia and prior meetings had been held in San Francisco and New York. The SAM have a chapter for international members and Youth Support has been represented at this each year with the result that we have a number of international members joining our forum and expressing interest in Youth Support.

The IAAH International Association for Adolescent health had a joint meeting with WHO (World Health Organisation) in Geneva in June 1990 at which we were able to make plans for the 1991 International congress to be held in Montreux next July. Currently Youth Support are affiliated to IAAH and Diana Birch is the president elect of IAAH. We will review this situation as IAAH develops and consider the value of continuing IAAH membership for our members but in the meantime we would encourage any member wishing to attend the Montreux meeting to write in for details.

Edited by Dr David Bennet
and Dr Murray Williams for
the Australian Association
for Adolescent Health.



ISBN 0 9588309 5 9 128 pages

This valuable publication consists of papers given at the Fourth International Symposium on Adolescent Health, held in Sydney 1987. It is available for US\$20 per copy (including postage) from Dr Murray Williams, CCAE Health Centre, PO Box 1 Belconnere ACT 2616 AUSTRALIA. (Please make cheques payable to "International Association for Adolescent Health".)



CINQUIÈME CONGRÈS DE L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA SANTÉ DES ADOLESCENTS

FIFTH CONGRESS, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Montreux, July 3-6 juillet 1991

SECRETARIAT PERMANENT - PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

IAAH, Cinquième congrès - Fifth Congress

Office du tourisme - Case postale 97 - CH-1820 Montreux

Tél. 021 / 963 12 12 - Téléfax 021 / 963 78 95 - Téléc 453 222

The Soviet Experience

We have developed a number of links with young people and with professional groups in USSR. This has involved discussions and lecturing at the centre for the mother and child in Moscow - the prestigious soviet research centre for obstetrics and gynaecology; discussions and advising on sex education and the young and a possibility of translation and publication of 'Are you my sister, mummy?' in Russian.

Links with schools and pupils have been very rewarding - Moscow teenagers wrote articles for our journal and corresponded with Warwick park school; Siberian teenagers from a hitherto closed town visited London and stayed at Youth Support in January 1990. They attended school at Waverley, Warwick Park and Cator park and Northbrook, James Allen's Girls' School and South Lee Christian Centre school -so they saw a variety of British education! Apart from being hosted by Charlton football club, the Churchill theatre, St Pauls'. The Tower of London, local families and Youth Support's musical troupe.

In June we took a group of British teenagers from these schools and Kelsey Park Boys school to Siberia for two weeks -culture shock but a great success. A series of exchanges and visits is planned for the coming year.

YOUTH SUPPORT - THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE

Youth Support have developed a series of activities aimed to give **young people and professionals** working with the young opportunities to travel and experience other cultures.

Young people are much the same the world over, sometimes there are special problems or advantages associated with living in a particular culture but more often we are coping with the same difficulties - school work - making friends - the generation gap - having our feelings understood and finding our place in the world. we can learn from each others ways of coping with these stresses and together find new solutions.

Our motto at Youth Support is **Youth are our resource for the future** - What better way can there be to understand the world's ecological problems, to build a lasting sense of peace and to give Youth a secure future, than to pool our resources and allow the youth of different cultures to come together and understand each other?

Our Soviet projects involve **Holidays and exchanges** for young people; Opportunities to meet with Soviet people in Britain and **professional exchange**.



YOUTH SUPPORT - THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE

We can arrange visits for school groups, family groups, friends or individuals. These can be based on a specific interest or activity or may be more general.

Currently we offer:-

City Visits - Spending some time in a major city - usually Moscow or Leningrad with excursions and visits to neighbouring places of interest.

Boat Trips - Various itineraries involving cruise on a Volga boat with stop offs at major places of interest, excursions and a social programme. These all include visits to a major city.

Summer Camp - Staying in one of the famous Russian summer camps with outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, sauna, sports. Excursions.

Winter Camp - Staying in a heated camp, living in wooden cabins, ice skating, winter sports, Russian Banya (a superheated sauna). Social events and excursions.

Skiing Holiday - Special winter camp with skiing. This is a Russian style of cross country skiing which is relatively easy to learn but which requires more stamina than down hill skiing. Instruction and equipment included. Social programme.

Polar Siberia - A summer excursion to the polar regions of Siberia. White nights. A breath taking landscape. Camping and walking with some days in hostels and visits to city. Equipment provided.

Family Life - Possibility to stay with a Russian family during a holiday seeing local sights and social events.

Language School - Possibility to have tuition in Russian language during a visit as above.

Summer School - A multicultural summer school on a cruise ship discussions, workshops, social events.

Professional Groups - Special visits arranged for small groups of professionals who would like to meet their colleagues in Soviet Union. Teachers may visit schools, Music events, housing projects etc. Arranged by request.

Special Groups - any specific requests may be dealt with by arranging a tailor made programme - please send us your requirements.

School Visits - We have a number of Soviet pupils and teachers who would like to spend a short time (usually one week) attending schools in the UK. The school participating need not have a particular interest in the Russian language. Most Russian children learn good English at school. They merely wish to meet friends and colleagues and sit in on lessons to learn about the English way of school life. Schools that have so far hosted Russian pupils have found this to be a very rewarding and interesting experience.

Family Visits - Some visitors like to be able to spend some time in a family - this may be linked with a school visit or may be arranged independantly. It may be a Soviet pupil staying with someone of their own age or a Soviet professional staying with a colleague.

Did you know that ...

This year Youth Support have sent sex education material and given advice to doctors and teachers from **Jugoslavia, Romania, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Japan, Australia, Siberia, Russia, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, India, South America and the USA!** - plus a few others - apologies for shortening the list ..

Currently we have a doctor from the USA spending a three month Sabbatical period with us at Youth Support House. Dr John Fricker is a paediatrician from Los Angeles who works with young people.

Youth Support - Youth projects
30 Crystal Palace Park Road,
Sydenham London SE26 6UG

Tel: 081-659 7931 / 081-650 6296 / Fax: 081-659 3309

Name age

Occupation or position

Address Tel No

School or establishment

Address Tel No

Please send me further details of visits to Soviet Union

Please tick

- City Visits
- Boat Trips
- Summer Camp
- Winter Camp
- Skiing Holiday
- Polar Siberia
- Family Visits
- Summer School
- Language Course
- Professional Visit

In United Kingdom - I would be interested in hosting pupils or teachers in my school / establishment.
I would be interested in providing host families for visitors.

When nobody cares, just what do you do?

FACED with a society that still looks on teenage pregnancies as a largely self inflicted burden, pregnant schoolgirls and young mums are often left to cope alone without the care and support they need.

But help is on the way. at least for some youngsters. when the charity Youth Support opens a new house in Beckenham on January 2.

But the impressive four storey building in Crescent Road will not just be a home for pregnant girls and teenage mums. It will also provide many of the facilities these much neglected youngsters may need, under one roof.

As well as offering residence to at least 10 girls, aged 18 or under, Youth Support House will run a day nursery, a self contained school unit, family planning clinic, and counselling and psychotherapy sessions.

Qualified and experienced staff will also be available to provide development assessments, medical reports, child abuse and medical examinations and court reports.

The idea of providing a range of facilities was that of Youth Support's director Diana Birch, a specialist in adolescent health who set up the charity in 1985 and who fought passionately to focus attention on teenagers' problems for years before that.

Report: Dolly Chedda Picture: Derek Riley

She is optimistic the new multi-facility approach will be effective, providing shelter and vital services for residents without becoming institutionalised.

"There is that danger when you

Can you help Youth Support?

MUCH of the furniture, equipment, toys and utensils already at Youth Support House was donated by individuals, groups and businesses.

But the following items are still needed: crockery and other kitchenware, dressing tables and bedside cabinets, paperback books and computers for use in the school.

If you can help, write to Diana Birch at Youth Support, 30 Crystal Palace Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26 6UG. Or call her on 659 7931/659 3309.

are concentrating on only one problem, of becoming entrenched in it," said Dr Birch

"But with this new approach we are hoping to avoid that."

She believes the girls will not become isolated because the facilities will also be open, for a small charge, to the general public, whose attendance will serve the double purpose of bringing in much needed income as well as providing some social contact.

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Supportive: Diana Birch outside the new Youth Support House (Photo: 894559)

Youth Support House.

Youth Support House is situated in south London at 13, Crescent Road, Beckenham.

We were very lucky to be able to take over these premises which we rent from the CMAA (Church Moral Aid Association). Our landlords have been very supportive of our work and allowed us to take over the building from the outgoing tenants, the Church Army. The premises were originally a children's home and then became a mother and baby home in 1980. We have restructured the running of the house and have upgraded some of the facilities.

It is important to look closely at the structure and philosophy of residential units from time to time since needs of client groups vary, as does the climate of funding and community support. It has been obvious to us in Youth Support for some time that facilities for the very young girl with a child or pregnant at an early age, were sadly lacking. We wished to create an atmosphere where such girls, and other teenagers could obtain the support, education and care which they needed, while at the same time being made to feel part of a community. So often residential care is a stop gap at best, and at worst can 'institutionalise' a teenager who then feels incarcerated or excluded from the real world and is thus unable to function within it after her 'sentence' is over.

Psychotherapy, group, individual and in special settings (drama, art and dance) is an important part of our rehabilitation process and we include a staff support group to help deal with the pressures of working with such a needy group.

To integrate residents into the community, we also have a series of activities aimed at bringing local people into contact with our residents. Part of this involves seeing 'day attenders' for education, therapy and general social activities. We also run a day nursery

so that local children can be cared for within the house. This service has been extended into a holiday scheme and after school service which we call "Bridging the Gap". The Day Nursery and after school cater for children of working mothers (latchkey children) and also children with special needs who attend for assessment, developmental monitoring, therapy or stimulating play.

* * * * *

..... All that sounds great
..BUT ... what was it like in the beginning!

We took over 13 Crescent Road in October 1989 - At the time it was cold, empty, full of junk and smelt from accumulations of unremoved rubbish. One bin had an ancient chicken in it which nearly walked out on it's own! For the first few weeks we seemed to do nothing but drag dirty mattresses out, carry wardrobes up and down slippery fire escapes, get almost crushed by demolished furniture and hurl broken cots onto the ever rising 'burnable heap' in the garden. The student labour who helped us even had a 'cot hurling' contest.

Yes, we did make a few trips to the 'dump' with vans and cars full of old prams and non burnables. I have almost blotted out the memory of those awful seagulls who mobbed us, their feet dripping with unmentionable 'grot' as we tried to heave grimy remains of previous occupants of Crescent Road over slippery gunge to the heap. One of our stalwarts at the time was a french student whose accent gave the scene a 'Peter Sellars' accent. The 'dermp' as it became known became an almost mythical nightmare ..

Most of the rest of the rubbish was burned on Guy Fawkes night - so that the neighbours would not complain - they were all invited as a public relations gesture and great fun was had by all - except for the hiccup over the cheese for the baked potatoes which froze solid and had to be broken up with a hammer and

chisel! We will, incidentally be having another bonfire on 5th November, so do come along.

Autumn 1989 was very eventful, we had a fund raising night at Catford dog stadium - raising £4,000. We hired a van which had been used to smuggle cocaine by previous customers and nearly got mixed up in the raid! We transported two lorry loads of furniture and equipment from the now deceased ILEA warehouse in Tottenham Hale - got mixed up in the ambulance dispute when the empty van was nearly commandeered to take an old lady to hospital.

Then there was the time we tried to lay new carpet in the 'assessment room' - the previous floor covering (for want of an accurate term) had been stuck down in three layers with VERY powerful glue - I just managed to pull the cleaner free, but we did both lose our shoes!

On Boxing day the plumber went to install the new nursery toilets and set off the burglar alarm - he rang me in a panic because he had forgotten his glasses and could not read the instructions to turn it off - I am sure the local residents were pleased to be woken early on a bank holiday!

* * * * *

1990 Started auspiciously with a **New Year's Eve party** at which our Russian visitors arrived; 34 teenagers from two schools in Siberia, with four teachers. We then spent two weeks hosting our visitors, taking them to local schools and holding various events in Youth Support House. When they left, the house was empty again and we worked hard to continue painting, repairing, putting up child gates and preparing for the opening of the **Day Nursery**.

Our first nursery nurse, **Carol Hemphrey**, Started work in February 1990 and was joined soon afterwards by **Sharon Heselwood**. At the same time we had some voluntary workers and managed to open the nursery in March after a very succesful open day. The staff has subsequently increased in

line with the number of children and we now have **Wendy Richmann, Rosa O'Connell** and others. We have been grateful for the great amount of help given to us by our kind and very knowledgeable volunteers.

The day nursery is registered with Bromley Council for 24 children from 2-5 years, five of which can be under three.

Bromley regulations have recently changed with regard to the under twos and we are now planning a new baby unit.

Stop press - is that the baby unit is being supported by a generous grant from Allied Dunbar.

We are still in need of toys, books etc for the nursery, so please think of us as Christmas toy collections are organised.

We have been very lucky to have received some money from **Boroughs Wellcome** for part of the cost of outdoor toys which are currently being purchased.



Ben receives a cheque from Boroughs Wellcome

The Residential Unit

We had some initial problems regarding registration. Basically nobody seemed to agree in their interpretation of the 1984 residential homes act with regard to an establishment such as ourselves. At first we were advised to apply for registration as a voluntary home, since we were an independent charity looking after children and young people with a variety of problems. We fell between the auspices of the Social services directorate of the department of health, the Local Borough Council and the Health Authority and were very grateful for the guidance provided to us by **Carol Stanger** our advisor from the **London Boroughs Children's Regional Planning Committee**.

It eventually became clear that the 1984 act is quite adamant that any establishment receiving young women who are or have been pregnant (time limit unspecified!) must be cared for in a **registered nursing home**. This law stands despite caring for them as they would be at home, ie not providing delivery or perinatal care etc, and stands even if we only have one girl in that category. Hence we have registered as a **Nursing Home** with Bromley Health Authority. This obviously has quite severe financial implications, since we now have to have 24 hour nursing cover as well as care worker cover but hopefully if all such establishments are 'in the same boat' local authorities will realise that this cost has to be reflected in fees.

The designated medical officer in charge of the nursing home and Director of Youth Support House is **Dr Diana Birch** who also runs staff training sessions and most of the psychotherapy. Other therapists are involved on an occasional basis.

Currently we have a resident care worker **Julie Childs**, and a rota of other workers to cover the 24 hours. Five nurses mainly cover the night duties and are 'awake' on duty while the care staff are 'sleeping in'. Our main night nurses are **Marjorie**,

Avril, Rose, Barbara and Rebecca and we have a 'bank' of others to be called on at short notice. **Lynne Tyrell** coordinates the work of our nurses and usually covers an afternoon shift herself.

Our resident girls are helped in baby care and feeding by our nursery nurses who work shifts in the day nursery and shifts in the residential unit. Our first resident was **Daniella**, a Bromley girl who came on day one and has since given birth to **Chloe**. Then **Maria** and baby **Kevin** arrived from Lewisham, followed by **Shirley** from Kent, who has just given birth to **Emma** at Farnborough hospital. We have bookings from Merton, Egham, Brent and Croydon. Unfortunately we lost a girl from Hounslow when their child care budgets were 'wiped out' - it seems that poll capping is having an effect here - hopefully short lived. The implementation of the 1989 children's act should have a bearing on this situation, more services for children and young mothers will have to be provided under the act and assessment places will be in demand - if resources are kept in line with needs - a perennial problem.

The **Education Block** is staffed by four teachers who between them cover most subjects and can take a teenager through to exam standard or cover basic lifeskills etc. **Anthea Page** is our teacher in charge and is helped by **Audrey and Kathy** with **Renald** supplying the musical talent and French. All our residents, of whatever age, are involved in some form of education or work experience. To equip them better for outside world and to instill a sense of achievement.

Youth Support House would not function without our administrative staff. **Lisa Bioletti** has become a jack of all trades since she joined us, turning her hand to computing, accounting, cooking, teaching We are pleased that in October Lisa will be helped out by **Petra Willoughby** who will organise our ever more complicated rotas and sort out the almost fulltime job of fund raising.

Angela Ogunshuyi is our caterer who teaches cooking and food hygiene to the girls while keeping everyone's waistlines straining at the leash.

Shirley Reid does a valiant job trying to keep us clean and tidy.

* * * * *

During the past year, we have had a lot of heartaches and struggles to keep things going and to set up a centre of excellence. From the start we knew we would have to work at self sufficiency. It HAS been a hard climb, but now our work has begun to bear fruit and we are seeing the results not only in terms of a service which was once a dream, actually up and running, but also the best result in seeing young mothers and girls from desperate backgrounds establishing bonds with their children and developing an inner confidence which must see them through in the future.

We have needed support during this difficult early period, and will continue to need help of colleagues. Our Youth Support Committee and Directors have been a source of strength - particularly the **Rev Leslie Virgo** who has been a wonderful source of good advice, ideas and practical help while also a recipient of our tales of woe and a shoulder to cry on, **Sonia McCarthy** who has advised on nursery management and the national curriculum, **Sonia Matthews** for organising helpers and sorting out the filing and **Audrey Llewellyn** who braved the London Underground with 34 Russians and never lost one!

THANK YOU

Everyone who has helped YOUTH SUPPORT

The **Students** who painted, shifted, nailed and hammered

The **Volunteers** who cleaned, cooked, read stories

Generous Donors who gave money, books, furniture, plates, cutlery

The **Companies** who have raised money for us - ADS Printers of Penge - Bruton's of Beckenham - SG Smith - Saunders Abbott - Coomes Racing - Jay Optician's - Terence Donovan Productions - Pam Haybittle Secretarial Agency - Borough's Wellcome - ... **AND STOP PRESS .. ALLIED DUNBAR** for financing the baby unit ...

