

A37637

ii. Context of the Report

Reporting requirements

- * This report includes work submitted, in the main, by April 15th 1994 (the deadline requested of trusts), in the form of local annual audit reports.
- * During 1993/94, the responsibility for audit at a regional level was held by a regional medical audit co-ordinator and a regional nursing and therapy audit co-ordinator. Unfortunately, this resulted in differing reporting requirements on medical audit, as opposed to those on nursing and therapies.

A request was made mid year for reporting to be joint wherever possible. In most areas, one report has been submitted.

- * Towards the end of 1993, the **minimum data set** was issued by the Department of Health as the basis for local arrangements for reporting on audit activity. They were issued alongside previous guidance to trusts with regard to their year end reports from the Regional Health Authority. While the majority of reports have heeded this request, there are still gaps in some of the information provided, which will become evident as one reads on.
- * Some parts of this report were produced without all reports having been submitted. Contributors should not therefore read the report expecting full representation of all local achievements. (Those not submitted in time, are still expected as part of the accountability process.)

Quantity versus Quality

- * Recognition must be given to the fact that a great deal of work is reported within local annual reports. Because of this quantity, the level of detail is often minimal. Areas of particular interest should be followed up with those professional groups and trusts involved.

It can be difficult to interpret how well projects have been carried out, on what basis decisions have been made and what has actually resulted from the audits themselves. For these reasons, it was felt necessary to define some criteria which could be used for the inclusion of work within this report.

Inclusion criteria:

Clear definition of a measurable standard(s)

Quantification of local achievement of this (these) standard(s)

Specification of changes resulting from the audit process