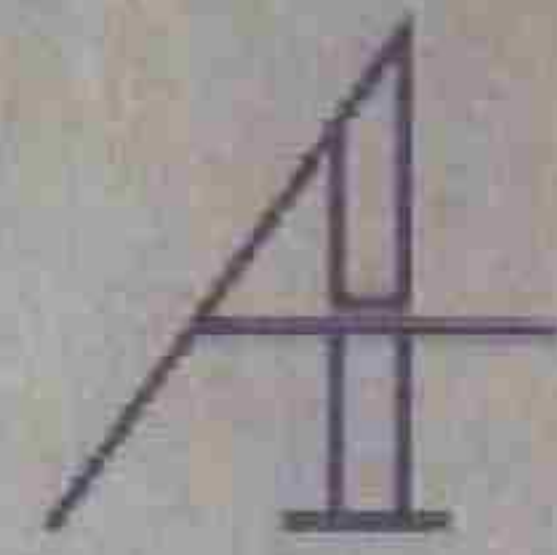


Albany Trust

16/20 Strutton Ground London SW1P 2HP Telephone: 01 222 0701/2



Our ref

Your ref

16/20 Strutton Ground London SW1P 2HP Telephone: 01 222 0701/2



Our ref

Your ref

22nd February, 1977

CONFIDENTIAL

Miss M.A. Clayton,
Home Office,
Voluntary Services Unit,
Kingsgate House,
66 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6SS

Further to my recent conversations with Mr. Gerrish, and my submission to him of provisional estimates for the Trust's 1977/80 budget, I am writing to request your Unit's favourable consideration to our application for a further three-year grant towards our administrative expenses.

I append a brief report on the Trust's major activities since the last report we submitted to you in December 1975. I also enclose the final report of our former Field Officer, Ms. Jan McHugh, who unfortunately left us at the end of January to return to the United States; and a series of progress reports from our Youth Officer, Ric Rogers, who joined us on 1st July last year. Though these two Officers were not directly funded through our VSU Grant, their reports indicate the extent of the field work which your support has been instrumental in enabling the Trust to undertake.

Yours sincerely,

DPA

Antony Grey
Director

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ALBANY TRUST

Report to the Voluntary Services Unit on Activities since December 1975

1. Introductory

During the period since we submitted our previous report, the Trust has consolidated and expanded its activities in a number of ways. In particular, we have been fortunate in having a Field Officer throughout this time, and a Youth Officer since July 1976, both of whom have initiated a number of projects and activities which have resulted in the Trust's becoming more widely known outside London. Their reports are attached separately, and the remainder of this one briefly documents the Trust's other major activities.

2. Counselling, Training and Research

With the aid of two qualified Senior Counsellors, assisted by some of those who participated in the Trust's 1975 course "An Experience of Psychosexual Counselling", the amount of counselling undertaken by the Trust is currently averaging at least 20 clients a week. The spread of presenting problems remains wide. The level of demand for counselling, and the major importance placed by the trustees on designing and implementing adequate training for psychosexual counsellors, has led the Trust to ask the Department of Health and Social Security for a grant to fund the appointment of a full-time Counselling and Training Officer. This request is currently under consideration by DHSS. A working party on training, convened by the Trust and including members drawn from a wide range of counselling and educational institutions, is now finalising its proposals, which will, it is hoped, attract the necessary professional and financial support to enable a series of counselling training courses to be instituted.

The Trust is discussing with DHSS the possibility of a research grant to study contemporary sexual behaviour and attitudes of young people.

3. Ongoing Projects

(a) Teenagers at Risk: Following the meetings held during the winter of 1975/76, the Trust's Chairman and Director saw senior police officers of London West End C Division in June 1976. The Trust's Youth Officer is involved in a working party which is looking at social needs of young people in the Earl's Court area.

(b) Christian Response to Sexual Variation: Several further meetings of this group took place during 1976, arising from which the Trust's Director saw the General Secretary of the British Council of Churches and requested the Council to carry forward the group's work on Christian attitudes and human sexuality. This request is still under consideration by the Council.

(c) Paedophiles: Several meetings were held with paedophiles and others interested in providing supportive help. It is hoped to publish information on this topic during 1977.

(c) Sex Offenders: Following a meeting with NACRO and officials of the Home Office Prisons Department, proposals are being formulated for the creation of a team of competent befrienders who could undertake prison visiting and after care work. It is hoped this project will

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Minutes of the Trustees' Meeting held on 4th October, 1977 at 16/10 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP.

Present: Sue Barnet
Rodney Bennett-England (Chairman)
Lil Butler
Michael Butler
Angela Willans
Staff: Margaret Branch
Alan Smith
Mike Wilson
Apologies: Tony Smythe
Arlo Tatum

109. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Minutes of the last meeting on 26th July, 1977 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
110. Matters Arising. (a) Sex Offenders (102a). The Chairman reported on the first meeting which took place on 20th September, 1977. The Trust was represented by RBE and Lil Butler. Lil Butler said that the Home Office was very interested in the work of the group and was waiting for it to report. Margaret Branch was invited to join the working party and she accepted. The next meeting is on 26th October 1977.
- (b) Fund Raising Committee. RBE said that there would be a party towards the end of the year to thank some of the major supporters of our work in the past and to inform them of our development plans and need for continued funding.
- (c) Pensions (103d). RBE reported that Arlo Tatum and Mike Wilson had both joined the Local Workers Pension Fund and that the Trust was also paying contributions on their behalf. In the case of Arlo Tatum, some payments had been back-dated.
- (d) Securities (103e). Lord Winstanley and Rodney Bennett-England are the new nominees in place of Bishop Robinson and Antony Grey.
- (e) Youth Officer (106). Lil Butler said that additional material had been requested from Ric Rogers in order to complete the report of the first year's work of the Youth Officer. She gave a report of the first meeting of the Steering Group of the new officer Alan Smith, and said there had been a very free and useful discussion of his role. The Group would produce a report by Christmas and Alan would be working to that brief in the coming year. The Youth Officer gave a short account of what he has done so far. Lil Butler said that the Trust was still learning that people are very hesitant to extend their perception of its work.
- (f) Staff Support Group (107a). The Chairman said this matter had been left on the table since the last Trustees' meeting. In Arlo Tatum's absence, Margaret Branch described the work of the group facilitator, Marta Ginzberg, and suggested that part of the £150 earned from the Surrey Probation Officers' course might go towards paying her. Sue Barnet supported the need for such a group for the staff. The Trustees agreed that the staff should arrange a starting date as soon as possible and that the situation is reviewed after three months.

83

In consequence, it was agreed that an Administrative Officer be appointed at a salary equal to both the Field Officer and the Youth Officer and in accordance with the Soulbury Scale, and that there should be no vertical staff structure. All functions should be very clearly defined and operating on a parallel system aided by regular staff meetings to be called by the Trust's Chairman.

Although it was felt that in not continuing AT in employment by virtue of the envisaged post being scrapped, and his present position amounting to a probationary period, no particular obligations concerning termination of service was required, RBE suggested that three months notice or salary should be offered. The Trustees, however, voted one month's notice be given, to take effect from his return to the office.

It was agreed that in view of AT's present absence in the States on compassionate leave, he should first be acquainted with the Trustees' decision before advertisements of the appointment for the post of Administrative Officer be placed in the Press, although it was felt desirable to engage a suitable person at the earliest opportunity to ease the inevitable extra workload placed on other staff in the interim following AT's departure.

14. Trust Structure. The Chairman reminded Trustees of the recommendation of his successor RBE of reorganising the management functions of the Trust and suggested that the present body should reconstitute itself into a Management Committee. To fulfil the legal requirements of the Trust Deed, it was agreed that Lord Winstanley, Rodney Bennett-England and Sue Barnet, the Hon. Treasurer, should remain Trustees, the remaining Trustees forthwith resigning that capacity. The three remaining Trustees ipso facto being members of the Management Committee. The Chairman said that he hoped, now the onerous Trustee legal obligation was not required of the management body it would be possible to augment that Committee by the addition of several specialists from other areas connected with our expanding work.

It was agreed that the Management Committee at their first meeting would give consideration to possible new members and also the constitution and functions of the proposed Advisory Council.

15. PIE Controversy. The Chairman reported the sequence of events following publications in the Daily Telegraph of PIE's proposed public meeting. Copies of correspondence sent by RBE to the Editor and News Editor respectively were commended by the Trustees. It was agreed that on all controversial and policy matters any dealings with the Press should be handled by the Chairman or when appropriate by the Chairman of Specialist Steering Groups. Whilst it was felt staff could probably deal with Press enquiries concerning routine matters, it was agreed that the Chairman be kept informed, in order to have some measure of knowledge of the interest taken by the media in our work. Sue Barnet asked whether the Trust proposed any new initiative on the paedophile issue at this stage. It was felt, however, that in view of the controversy stirred up by the Press, nothing useful could be achieved in the immediate future, although the Trust would continue to offer help, advice and information and still propose to compile a pamphlet on the subject.

ALBANY TRUST

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 15th November, 1977
at 15/18 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP.

Present: Sir Barnett
Rodney Bennett-England (Chairman)
Lil Butler
Michael Butler

Staff: Margaret Branch
Linda Raymond
Alan Smith
Mike Wilson

Apologies: Tony Smythe
Angela Willans
Lord Winstanley

1. Minutes Previous Trustee Meeting. Minutes of the last meeting of the Trustees on the 4th October, 1977 were signed and approved.
2. Matters Arising.
 - a) Sex Offenders Working Party. The Chairman reported that the last meeting of the Working Party was largely given to defining terms of reference. The Chairman emphasised the need for Home Office clearance and reported that a further meeting was planned on 18th November, 1977.
 - b) Staff Support Group. Margaret Branch reported that the staff were very happy with the progress of the group.
 - c) Placement Students. The Chairman introduced Linda Raymond, who is on placement with the Trust until the end of February 1978. Linda is currently studying for a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work at Medway & Maidstone College. She gave a brief outline of the work that she is involved in at the Trust. Mike Wilson said that he had already been to two meetings with Linda's tutor and others will follow. Following a discussion of what the Albany Trust can offer placement students it was agreed that Margaret Branch should examine and revise the proposals that Arid Tatum has already made and report back to the Management Committee.
 - d) Administrative Officer's Appointment. The Chairman reported that the post had been advertised in the Observer, the Guardian, and New Society. A short list of applicants will be drawn up after November 30th and interviews will take place in early December. It is hoped that the new officer will be able to start work about mid-January.
3. Prospective additional members of the Management Committee. The Chairman said that there was a need for a wider and more representative body of expertise on the Management Committee. Appropriate suggestions would be welcome of people who will want to and can come to meetings of the Committee and actively involve themselves in the Trust's work.

6/15

were likely. In view of the current interest in the Trust the Chairman raised the possibility of mailing MPs and members of the House of Lords with a letter giving details of the Trust's work. It was agreed that the Chairman should draft the letter and submit it to the DES for their comments.

- 9. Field Officer's Report. The Field Officer said that his steering Group had had a successful first meeting. He gave a report of a very interesting and beneficial visit to Holland at the invitation of the Dutch organisation CDC. He said that he had planned an extensive field trip to Bristol at the end of the month.
- 10. Youth Officer's Report. The Youth Officer reported on a successful visit to the Tyne-side area. He also gave a report of a meeting he had had with the DES who wished to emphasise the delicate position he was in with regard to the nature of his work. Lil Butler said that in terms of structure, the DES are sufficiently important for us to understand their rules and not underestimate them. She said we should be aware of the very fine line we tread. The Chairman said the same was true of the Home Office.
- 11. VSU Grants. The Chairman reported that he and the Hon. Treasurer had invited the new VSU Director, Clifford Hindley, and Mr. T. Gerrish to a meeting earlier that morning. It had been a helpful meeting, although it was clear there was some Home Office disquiet about the way we assist sexual minorities. The Hon. Treasurer reported that revised budgets for the remainder of the year would be submitted to the VSU in December and it was hoped there would be no reduction in the grant despite the Trust no longer employing a Director.
- 12. Staff. The Chairman said it had come as a great surprise to learn that the staff had not been given formal contracts of employment and that these would shortly be issued and backdated to the first day of employment in each case.

Margaret Branch proposed a two-day weekend conference in the Trust offices next Spring, on shared aspects of sexual counselling. It was hoped it would be self-financing and the Committee agreed to leave the dates to Margaret Branch to organise.

The Chairman reported on the staff meeting he had held the previous week and said that it was generally felt we needed an ansaphone, despite having terminated an earlier contract. It would be especially helpful at lunch times, evenings when counsellors are working and at other times. The message could be varied according to need (i.e. leave your name and telephone number and we will call back or, the office is closed, but will reopen etc.) The Committee agreed we rent a new machine, but urged the recorded voice be sympathetic and not cold and formal.
- 13. Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Management Committee will be on Wednesday 11th January 1978, at 12.30 to 2.30 pm