



Taking action

for a healthier community

ANNUAL REVIEW 2002

TAKING ACTION FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

As we enter the 21st century, HIV and AIDS continue to pose a major public health challenge worldwide and within Western Europe, including the UK and Jersey. Globally the HIV/AIDS epidemic is at an early stage of development and its long-term evolution is still unclear.

A MAJOR CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The year 2002 is set to see a 26% increase in new diagnoses of HIV in the UK, according to the latest data from the Public Health Laboratory Service. The PHLS is also reporting alarming increases in other sexually transmitted infections.

These figures underline how urgent it is for governments to implement their own sexual health and HIV strategies without further delay.

TAKING ACTION

For the past eight years ACET has been taking action to reduce the threat posed by HIV/AIDS in Jersey. Working with our partners in government and voluntary agencies ACET is ensuring that all members of our diverse community have access to the information, education and services necessary to develop the life-skills needed to reduce their vulnerability to HIV and improve their own sexual health.

PARENTS FIRST

ACET has always recognised the important role parents have to play in providing education and support for their own children as they grow up and face the emotional and physical challenges that sexual maturity brings. Over the past 8 years ACET has developed a series of workshops to help parents enhance and rekindle their skills in talking to their children about all the issues surrounding sex and relationships.

In 2002 ACET further developed its support for parents by publishing 'A Parent's Toolkit' – a user-friendly book of practical information and ideas to equip parents of younger children with the skills and information they need to talk appropriately about sensitive sexual issues. Throughout 2003 Health Visitors, Nurseries and Primary Schools will be distributing free copies of the Toolkit to all parents of children under the age of 12 years.

IMPROVING ADULT LITERACY

Research shows that people need high levels of literacy to understand important health messages and make informed decisions about protecting their sexual health.

The 2001 Census reveals dramatically low levels of literacy in Jersey with 34% of the working age population possessing no qualifications. This is more than twice as great a proportion of the population as in the UK. ACET's own findings confirm the extent of the problem, especially amongst people whose first language is not English.

ACET began taking action to improve adult literacy by providing easier access to practical education six years ago. We are now working in partnership with Highlands College and the BBC to provide a range of creative English and literacy classes together with health education and life skills training for people whose first language is not English. Classes are held at our popular multi cultural Community Development Project which is currently attended by around 80 people of different nationalities each week.

FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

Since its inception in 1994 ACET has pioneered a range of innovative community-based initiatives that tackle some of the fundamental issues that determine the future sexual health of any community.

We recognise that no single agency can tackle the issues alone. Success at the local level as well as at the global level will depend on governments together with non-governmental organisations, like ACET, working in creative partnerships with businesses, community groups and individuals to deliver, successful, proven approaches to HIV prevention.

There is an urgent need for Jersey to seize the moment of action and invest in prevention initiatives that tackle the fundamental educational, social and cultural issues that determine the future sexual health of our community. Treatment costs are astronomic. Failure to take action now will certainly result in unnecessary suffering and huge costs in the future.

ACET Jersey works in partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies in Jersey to promote and deliver initiatives that reduce the spread of HIV.

ACET's initiatives raise awareness of the issues around sexual health, drugs and relationships.

ACET's interventions reduce vulnerability by providing individuals with the knowledge, confidence and life-skills they need in order to safeguard their own sexual health.

Rosemary Ruddy
Executive Director, ACET Jersey

SERIOUS INVESTMENT IS NEEDED

If we are serious about prevention we must begin by tackling the causes of sexual ill health. We now know that simply giving people facts about HIV/AIDS does not change behaviour. However successful, proven approaches to HIV prevention have now been identified. These include a need for a particular emphasis on young people together with community-based initiatives and the need to address the economic, political, social and cultural factors that render individuals and communities vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

In the past year ACET's team of dedicated professionals has been working in creative partnerships with colleagues in Education, Health & Social Services, Home Affairs and Policy & Resources as well as other non-governmental organisations to tackle the underlying issues that will ultimately result in an improvement of sexual health in Jersey.

A new project to meet the needs of vulnerable children in St Helier was launched in May and is already proving to be a great success by providing a range of lively activities and trips every Saturday afternoon for older children living in St Helier who would otherwise have nowhere to go.

REACHING MINORITY GROUPS

Providing culturally sensitive information and education as well as opportunities to improve literacy, learn English and integrate into the local community for people who have a first language other than English also continues to be a high priority for ACET.

In 2003 ACET will be continuing to work with Highlands College to improve adult literacy and further develop innovative English and life skills classes for people whose first language is not English.

HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS

Health experts throughout the UK are warning about a marked deterioration in the sexual health of 18 to 30 year olds.

ACET plans to increase provision of HIV/AIDS information and education for young adults by providing more HIV/AIDS awareness workshops in the workplace in 2003.

A VALUABLE NEW RESOURCE

Despite worrying cutbacks in government funding in 2002, and against all the odds, ACET managed to raise an additional £20,000 to ensure the publication of A Parent's Toolkit, a valuable new resource for parents. Already feedback about the new publication from parent's, professionals and teachers in Jersey and the UK is very encouraging and confirms the fundamental importance of supporting parents with good resources.

ACET will be making a further investment in this project in 2003 by developing training resources to strengthen the partnership between parents and their child's school.

A WAKE-UP CALL

HIV continues to be a major public health issue in Britain. HIV cuts across British society, affecting individuals irrespective of their age, gender, race, social class and sexual orientation.

Here in Jersey there is no reason to believe that the situation is any different from the rest of Great Britain where figures record a 25% increase in new HIV infections together with enormous increases in the spread of other sexually transmitted infections.

There is no blueprint for bringing the AIDS epidemic under control. But the last 20 years have seen the development of tools and knowledge that we know can result in success.

ACET's small team of committed professionals have continued to work hard throughout 2002 to raise funds and deliver services where they really count but it remains a major cause for concern that all the Island's sexual health agencies are being starved of the resources they desperately need to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and improve sexual health.

It is time for our politicians to wake up to reality and make a serious investment in a coordinated Sexual Health Strategy for Jersey before it is too late.

Mike Wavell

Chairman of Trustees

WORLDWIDE

AIDS kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease

42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS

5 million people were infected in 2002

3.1 million AIDS deaths were recorded in 2002

(UNAIDS/WHO November 2002)

IN THE UK

The total recorded HIV infections so far are 54,261

It is estimated that 6,500 new cases will be recorded in 2002

It is estimated that there are now 41,200 people living with HIV, up to one third of whom are not aware of their infection

(Communicable Disease Report 13(13) 08 February 2003)

Sexually transmitted infections up 61% over 10 years

Gonorrhoea up 35%

Chlamydia up 122%

Syphilis up 207%

IN JERSEY

3 new cases of HIV were diagnosed in the first 6 weeks of 2003

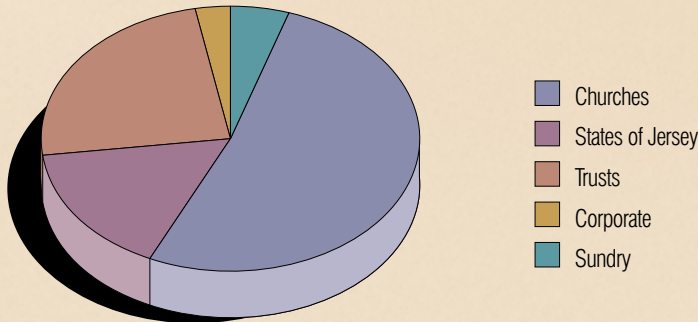
HOW OUR FUNDS WERE INVESTED TO IMPROVE SEXUAL HEALTH IN JERSEY

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2002

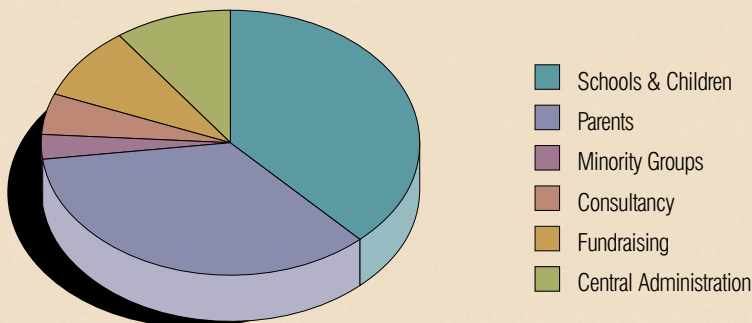
Income: £205,301

Where our funds came from:



Expenditure: £163,14

How we invested them:



BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 2002

ASSETS	£
FIXED ASSETS	
Equipment	1,058
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at bank and in hand	99,482
Net current (liabilities)/assets	(2,475)
TOTAL	98,065
FUNDS	
RESERVE FUNDS	
brought forward	56,078
SURPLUS for the year	41,978
TOTAL	98,065

WHAT OUR ASSETS ARE FOR

Most of our assets are committed to ongoing education and training projects and specific activities planned for 2003. These include:

- **support, training and resources for parents;**
- **educational and outreach work with people whose first language is not English;**
- **preventative initiatives in schools and with vulnerable children;**
- **raising awareness in the workplace among 18-30 year olds.**

Total Designated Funds for 2003 are £183,000.

The figures on this page have been extracted from the audited financial statements.

Full accounts are available on request from ACET Jersey.

ACET (AIDS CARE EDUCATION & TRAINING) JERSEY

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SPONSORS

We would like to thank all those who have supported ACET in 2002 with gifts and sponsorship, particularly those who have given regularly to our work.

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Georgetown Methodist Church
Methodist Church Multi-Racial Projects Fund
Parish Church of St Ouen
St George's Church
St Paul's Church

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Highlands College
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Public Health Services

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CONSULTANT: (Founder and Consultant ACET International) Dr. Patrick Dixon, MB BS MA (Cantab)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rosemary Ruddy, BA
DipVG CertMgmt (Open) MInstF (Cert)

YOU CAN HELP TO STOP AIDS

HIV/AIDS is everyone's problem but together we can reduce the number of new infections.

ACET is a well-run charity with a proven track record and a clear sense of direction. Join us in 2003 to ensure that men and women in Jersey have the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to safeguard their own sexual health and that of their children.

You can use the enclosed reply slip to send a donation, or contact Rosemary Ruddy on 01534 505957 to discuss ways of supporting our work.

Please pass this Annual Review on to friends or colleagues. For further copies phone 01534 505957, or complete your details on the enclosed reply slip.