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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Principal School Medical Officer
for the
YEAR 1971



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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Telephone No:
Bury St. Edmunds 63141

Manor House,
Bury St. Edmunds.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The policy of selective medical examinations has been mentioned in the Annual Reports since the first trial introduction in 1965. With the shortages of skilled medical manpower this policy has enabled schools to be visited more frequently, and more time to be spent on the handicapped child. It has been essential to have the help of the local doctors, especially the paediatricians, who send letters on all their patients. There has also had to be more concentration on the pre-school child, and a growth in early developmental testing. The routine screening for hearing and vision defects remains vital, and needs to be intensified when medical examination is selective.

A new appointment this year has been made of a physiotherapist. It is being found most beneficial to have her working closely with the teachers on the needs of the physically handicapped.

The transfer took place in April of the Junior Training Centres to become Special Schools, and the transition was smooth, due to the close co-operation of the Education and Health Departments. The children have been helped by the wider range of the education field, whilst retaining the services of the medical officer in his role as school medical officer.

This is the last Annual Report for which I will be responsible, and I gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of my colleagues in the educational and medical fields, the support that I have always received from the Education Committee, and from my staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID ANDREW McCracken

Principal School Medical Officer.

1st October, 1972.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Principal School Medical Officer	D. A. McCracken, C.St.J., M.D., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.
Deputy Principal School Medical Officer	A. M. Lush, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., (R.C.P.I.), D.(Obst.), R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer	D. M. Walker, M.B., Ch.B.
School Medical Officers	P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. L. B. Gonzalez, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. U. E. Williams, M.D. (part-time)
Principal School Dental Officer	S. H. Pollard, L.D.S.
Dental Officers	Col. E. Ferguson, M.B.E., L.D.S. W. L. Norman, L.R.A.M., L.D.S., R.C.S. (part-time)
Director of Nursing Services	Miss V. M. Hird, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.Cert.
Area Nursing Officers	Miss A. M. Delahunty, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. Miss M. M. Ward, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
School Nurses, etc. (as on 31.12.71)	One School Nurse (part-time) 26 School Nurse/Health Visitors, (one part-time) and three dental surgery assistants (one part-time).
Speech Therapists	Miss B. M. Elton, L.C.S.T. (Senior) Mrs. J. J. B. Easdown, L.C.S.T., from 1.3.71 — part-time Mrs. J. M. Rigby, L.C.S.T., from 13.9.71 — part-time Mrs. R. A. Stamp, L.C.S.T., from 13.12.71 — part-time
Physiotherapist	Mrs. G. J. Cooke, M.C.S.P., part-time from 6.12.71.
Health Education Officer	Miss V. Blanchard
Senior Administrative Officer	E. White.

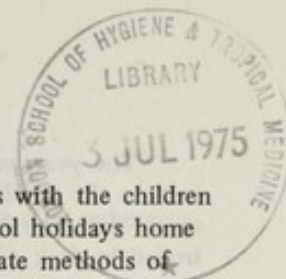
Population and Types of Schools.

The County of West Suffolk has an area of 390,916 acres. The estimated population at mid-1971 was 168,740. There are no county boroughs within the county. In September 1971 there were 124 maintained schools in the county. Of the 18 secondary schools there were 4 grammar schools, one bilateral and 13 secondary modern, there were also 2 middle schools, containing in all 10,599 pupils.

The 104 primary schools contained 17,402 pupils. The total maintained school population was therefore 28,001.

Medical Inspection.

With the limited medical time available the system of selective medical inspections has continued to show that it is the most effective use of resources. The frequent school visits has led to greater rapport with headmasters and their staffs, and more discussion on the handicapped children in ordinary schools.



Physiotherapy.

A part-time physiotherapist was appointed in December 1971. Her main work was with the children with both mental and physical handicap in Riverwalk and Hillside Schools. During school holidays home visits were made to discuss child management problems with the parents, and demonstrate methods of treatment which can be carried out in the home. Special attention was given to the children in the special care unit, who are mostly unable to walk. The aim is to condition the children into normal patterns of movement, and progress is slow, and often limited.

Speech Therapy.

The number of speech therapists was reduced to one in January, 1971, but three part-time therapists were appointed during the year. The fluctuations in staff caused organizational difficulties, but by the end of the year speech therapy was reasonably available over the whole country. During the year a total number of 389 children were under the care of speech therapists. Of this number 68 were discharged either because they had left the area, or because, as in most cases, a satisfactory speech standard had been achieved.

Heaf Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination.

The following figures exclude those Heaf positive due to earlier B.C.G. vaccination.

YEAR BORN	NUMBER TESTED	POSITIVE 1 & 2	POSITIVE 3 & 4	% OF POSITIVE REACTORS WHERE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT
1954	5	1	0	—
1955	47	5	0	—
1956	491	32	9	—
1957	1,083	60	17	—
1958	219	9	1	—
1959	1	0	0	—
TOTAL	1,846	107	27	—

In two schools in different parts of the County a member of staff was found to have tuberculosis which could have been infectious. The remaining members of staff were given chest X-Rays, and the children were Heaf tested. No further cases of tuberculosis were found.

Verminous Children.

Following the repeated inspections of the previous year, and the thorough follow-up at the homes of those affected there has been a decrease in the number of children found verminous to 38. Total inspections numbered 4,064.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE

The normal work of the School Psychological Service continued during 1971. The Educational Guidance Centres helped as many children as ever. A new centre was started at Brandon in January, 1971, and was soon flourishing.

There was a temporary set-back in the work of the Remedial Centre in Bury St. Edmunds when it had to be moved from Wayfarer House into much smaller temporary accommodation in the grounds of St. Mary's Infants' School.

The year was marked by a change in the way that some of the newer schools offered remedial help to the pupils needing it. Rather than having settled special classes, they have organised their groups on a "withdrawal" basis. In some cases, the change in the system was chosen but in others was controlled by lack of space for a set class, even in new schools. A careful watch will be kept to see which system produces the best results — if indeed any difference can be detected. However, already the signs are that anxious and unsettled children do better in settled special classes.

During the year, the former Junior Training Centres for mentally handicapped children became Special Schools for Educationally Sub-Normal pupils. This meant more than just a change of name and a regional scheme of in-service training for the teachers in these schools was quickly planned and under way.

The year was also marked by the setting-up of a new Social Services Department and in the main case conferences and inter-departmental meetings continued as fruitfully as before.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The following table shows the number of handicapped pupils at, or awaiting vacancies at, special schools or hostels.

	Blind	Partially Sighted	Deaf	Partially Hearing	Physically Handicapped	Delicate	Maladjusted	Educationally Subnormal	Epileptic	Speech Defects	TOTAL
At special schools or hostels	4	2	6	2*	4	10	39	21	1	1	90
At independent schools	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	5
Awaiting admission to special schools or hostels	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	5	1	—	21
TOTAL	4	2	7	2	4	10	58	26	2	1	116

*This figure does not include the 2 children who were attending the partially hearing unit in Bury St. Edmunds, or Riverwalk and Hillside Schools.

Deaf and Partially Hearing Children.

The unit for partially hearing children has continued successfully with 12 children of primary age. Children with severe hearing loss who some years ago would have attended a school for the deaf can now be managed in the unit, due to the modern equipment and skilled teaching available there. The children at residential schools are all of secondary school age.

There were 32 children with hearing aids in ordinary schools, and post aural aids were ordered by the hospital consultant when these gave satisfactory hearing.

Physically Handicapped Children.

Fifty-three children were classified with some defect, of which six children had severe handicap. It is encouraging to see how well local schools can look after children with severe defects when given the appropriate help and advice. The younger children especially benefit from not having to travel to special residential schools many miles away.

Delicate Children.

Thirteen children were classified with severe handicaps at ordinary schools, and also 16 asthmatics, 23 diabetics, 73 with heart defects and 35 others were noted with mild defects.

Epileptic Children.

Sixty-two children were noted at ordinary schools.

Maladjusted Children.

The child psychiatrist and his team saw 171 children at hospitals at Bury St. Edmunds and Sudbury. Additional children attended hospitals outside the County.

Many of these referrals were made by the School Health Service with the agreement of the family doctor, and with reports from the School Psychological Service.

Twenty-six of the children, including 5 day boys attended Hampden House Hostel at Sudbury.

Educationally Subnormal Children.

The figures in the table are comparable with previous years. In addition the responsibility for the education of mentally handicapped children was transferred from the Health Committee on 1st April, 1971. The two former Junior Training Centres are now called special schools for the E.S.N. although the pupils are more severely handicapped than at the older type of school. The former Junior Training Centre at Bury St. Edmunds is now Riverwalk School, and a special care unit for children with profound handicaps was opened, having been planned in advance of 1st April in co-operation with the Health Committee. The former Junior Training Centre at Sudbury is renamed Hillside School.

The medical classification of the children was as follows:

Riverwalk and Hillside Special Day Schools.

Severely subnormal	65
Subnormal	17
Physically Handicapped	1
Blind and Physically Handicapped	1
Autistic	2
Special Care Unit	12

Education in Hospitals.

Three hundred and seventeen children resident in West Suffolk received education in hospital for varying periods. Included in this figure are the 42 children who were taught in hospitals outside the County.

Education at Home.

Seven children were taught at home during the year.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER

This has been a disappointing year in regard to the staffing position. The vacancy reported last year has not been filled, although the post has been upgraded to Senior Dental Officer, repeated advertising has failed to attract any firm applications.

I can however report an improvement in the number of children attending and being treated in each session. The number of broken appointments has been reduced by sending notices direct to the parents. The mobile clinic has been used more effectively by providing transport for children when small numbers are involved. By this means numbers can be made up if there should not be a full day's work available at any particular school.

Due attention continues to be paid to the important matter of dental health education. The General Dental Council's mobile exhibition was used at three primary schools in Bury St. Edmunds during a week at the end of the summer term. Children showed real interest in the various teaching aids and the staff of the schools were most co-operative. The distribution of posters and leaflets to all schools continues.

The future development of the school dental service depends very much on the outcome of the proposed re-organisation of the health services. It is to be hoped that a comprehensive scheme for the dental care of the priority classes will be included in the final arrangements.

HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Programmed Health Education is now becoming recognised and forming an integral part of the school curriculum in its own right. Fewer teachers are asking for sporadic talks on health, these being replaced by complete courses of a term or a year's duration.

This is a far more satisfactory approach, and an attitude absorbed by pupils who attribute more importance to the subject giving more attention to it, than when presented as an obvious gap-filler for the end of term.

As a timetable subject, visual aids can be utilized fully, as demands for materials are steadily booked throughout the year instead of numerous requests being received for the same film at the same time.

Forty-eight talks were given during the course of the year, and thirteen complete courses arranged in infant, junior, secondary and grammar schools on:

1. Cleanliness
2. Dental Health
3. Mothercraft
4. Sex Education
5. Public Health
6. "Life in the 70's"

An information and publicity campaign for vaccination against Rubella was run in all secondary schools. Posters exhibited, leaflets distributed and films shown in sixteen schools. This resulted in a good response to vaccination when offered.

At the same time local factories and clinics exhibited posters and information leaflets.

The annual letter and notes concerning care and maintenance of school swimming pools was issued to all headteachers. Leaflets "The Swimming Pool Users Guide" and a new publication called "Down with Drowning" containing advice on water safety and behaviour, were distributed to school children.

The leaflets on Foot Care were also issued to headteachers – “How to Have Healthy Feet” and “Common Foot Complaints”. It was hoped that these would help to curtail the spread of infection commonly prevalent during the summer months.

A Study Day “The Medical Awareness of Teachers” was held at the Teachers’ Centre in October. This was very well attended and enthusiastically received, many participants asking for more of these days.

A number of teachers have visited the Health Education section in order to receive material for projects, advice on visual aids, and borrow equipment. Pupils request leaflets or information for school courses or individual projects, and when appropriate and applicable these have been supplied.

TABLE I
SELECTIVE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

AGE GROUPS INSPECTED (BY YEARS OF BIRTH)	NUMBER OF PUPILS SELECTED	PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT, INCLUDING THOSE ALREADY UNDER SUCH TREATMENT		
		FOR DEFECTIVE VISION (excluding squint)	FOR ANY OTHER CONDITIONS	TOTAL INDIVIDUAL PUPILS
1965	—	—	—	—
1964	—	—	—	—
1963	—	—	—	—
1962	—	—	—	—
1961	—	—	—	—
1960	—	—	—	—
1959	—	—	—	—
1958	115	8	22	28
1957	1,295	193	84	259
1956 or earlier	688	107	39	142
TOTAL	2,098	308	145	329

TABLE II
OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections ..	..	580
Number of Re-inspections ..	..	<u>1,850</u>
TOTAL ..		<u>2,430</u>

TABLE III
RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND AT SPECIAL INSPECTIONS
(including defects already under treatment or observations)

DEFECT OR DISEASE	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	Number of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring observation only
Skin	9	2
Eyes — Vision	80	26
Squint	2	10
Other	4	—
Ears — Hearing	6	109
Otitis Media	—	—
Other	—	3
Nose and Throat	1	4
Speech	29	30
Lymphatic Glands	—	—
Heart	8	5
Lungs	16	1
Developmental — Hernia	—	—
Other	5	4
Orthopaedic — Posture	—	1
Feet	1	—
Other	9	3
Nervous System — Epilepsy	4	2
Other	2	3
Psychological — Development	9	20
Stability	15	22
Abdomen	—	2
Other	9	6

TABLE IV
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's dental officers —						
(a)	At Periodic inspections	..	..	..	..	10,854
(b)	At Specials	..	..	..	..	<u>155</u>
					TOTAL	<u>11,009</u>
(2) Number offered treatment						
(3)	Number actually treated	..	..	..	..	1,677
(4)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	..	..	..	..	3,378
(5)	Half-days devoted to: Inspection	..	..	..	..	87½
	Treatment	..	..	..	..	<u>681</u>
					TOTAL	<u>768½</u>
(6) Fillings — Permanent teeth						
	Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	<u>1,050</u>
					TOTAL	<u>2,299</u>
(7) Extractions — Permanent teeth						
	Temporary teeth	..	..	..	..	<u>656</u>
					TOTAL	<u>818</u>
(8) Administration of General Anaesthetics						
(9) Orthodontics: (a) Cases commenced during year						
	(b) Cases completed during year	..	..	..	..	4
	(c) Cases discontinued	..	..	..	..	1
	(d) Appliances fitted	..	..	..	..	8
(10) Number of dentures fitted						
		—



