



[Please note: If any of the links break over two lines you may have to paste them back together again in your browser. Alternatively you could visit the home page for the organisation (the bit between the double "/" and the first single "/" and follow links from there.)

Hello again!

As another year opens we would like to wish you and yours health and happiness in the year to come.

1] Please find the Jan 2006 newsletter attached. This contains some details of what we worked on last month, and a chart showing gross ingredient costs and number of defined daily doses of antidepressants in Scotland; 1995/96 to 2004/05.

2] The National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-being have launched a new e-bulletin and a new website (<http://www.wellscotland.info>). Visit <http://www.wellscotland.info/news/subscribe.html> to subscribe to the e-bulletin.

3] The Scottish Public Health Observatory website was launched last month (<http://www.scotpho.org.uk>) and includes a section on mental health.

4] The Autumn 2005 edition of the newsletter for Mental Health Officers in Scotland has been published. It is available at http://www.gla.ac.uk/centres/nuffield/MHO_Newsletters/MHO_NL10_Autumn_2005_final.pdf and contains articles on: detention of acquitted persons; MHO training; authorising interventions on adults who lack capacity; legal representation of MHOs at tribunals and additional payments to MHOs. It also includes updates from the office of the public guardian and the Mental Welfare Commission.

5] The Scottish Executive have made available a number of topic guides (on the New Mental Health Act) for service users and carers - see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/MentalHealth/mhlaw/guidance>. Topics addressed include: advance statements; compulsory treatment orders; consent to treatment; emergency and short-term powers; independent advocacy; the role of the Mental Welfare Commission; named persons; duties of NHS boards and local authorities; and criminal justice proceedings. More topics will be covered with future releases.

6] The Scottish Executive have also published "Mental Health Law Research: Update and Agenda 2005 - 07". This updates on changes to Scottish Mental Health Law and provides an outline of the research programme designed to assess the impact of the new legislation, and provide an evidence base for future policy development. See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/12141256/12572> or contact jamie.pitcairn@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

7] The Suicide Information Research and Evidence Network (SIREN)(see <http://www.chooselife.net/web/site/ResearchandReviews/SIREN.asp>) have announced that their inaugural conference will be held on 3 Oct 2006. The venue is still to be decided. Any comments/ideas that you have for this conference would be most welcome. You could send these

to jacki.gordon@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, or post them on SIREN's discussion forum at <http://www.chooselife.net/web/site/DiscussionForum/DiscussionForums.asp>.

8] As always, previous editions of the Improving Mental Health Information Programme newsletter are available at our web site (see <http://www.isdscotland.org/imhipnews>). The website (<http://www.isdscotland.org/imhip>) also includes details of all our projects and relevant policy links.

9] If you know anyone else who might be interested to receive this e-mailed newsletter once a month encourage them to sign-up by e-mailing karen.brown@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk. Why not forward them this e-mail to let them know this newsletter exists? We are particularly keen to improve our profile with service users and informal carers, and with GPs and practice team members (among others).

10] If at any time you wish to be removed from this distribution list, wish further information on any of our activities or have comments, however critical, about anything we say or do please get in touch. We will only improve mental health information if we work together and keep talking!

best wishes,

Karen Brown

Alastair Philp