



Hello again! We have a bumper edition for Christmas.

***Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Cool Yule, and other compliments of the season!***

1/ Please find the December newsletter attached. This contains some details of what we have been up to this last month and a chart showing Cost per attendance for community psychiatric teams, by Health Board area, Apr 2003-Mar 2004.



imhipdec04.pdf

2/ The Chinese Mental Health Association have launched a mental health helpline. Wah Sum Helpline is a confidential service which offers information, advice, service referral, signposting and emotional support to the Chinese people suffering from mental distress and their carers. It is available at 0845 122 8660 on Mon to Fri from 10 am to 8 pm.

3/ The Scottish Executive has "embarked on an extensive research process to provide an up-to-date evidence base, to improve the quality, collection, availability and dissemination of information relating to suicide and suicidal behaviour, and on relevant effective interventions." Two publications have been made available: a project survey (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/health/sasb-00.asp>) and a summary of research findings (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/hcc42-00.asp>).

4/ The mental health portal on the NHS Scotland e-Library, developed by the Managed Knowledge Networks project, is available at <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk/portal/mh/pages/index.aspx>. An evaluation of this work is currently under way. Please visit the site and then complete a short questionnaire at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=1522694362> to relay your impressions. This should take only 5 minutes, with results being sent directly to the Managed Knowledge Networks team at NHS Education Scotland.

5/ An addition to the Scottish Framework for Mental Health Services (see [http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publications/mental\\_health\\_services/mhs/Framework%20Document.pdf](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publications/mental_health_services/mhs/Framework%20Document.pdf)) covering The Planning, Organisation and Delivery of joined up services for those with dementia and their carers has been published as HDL (2004) 44. For more details see [http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/mels/HDL2004\\_44.pdf](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/mels/HDL2004_44.pdf). "The report and template produced by the Scottish Executive and Alzheimer Scotland Short Life Working Group will help inform the approaches adopted by NHS Boards, local authorities, Community Health Partnerships and other partners on how to they wish to plan and commission services for people with dementia and their carers."

6/ A comparison of the texts of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 is now available on the Scottish Executive Adults with Incapacity webpages. See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/Civil/16360/awimhct>.

7/ A report from the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths - Why Mothers Die 2000-2002 - Report on confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in the United Kingdom - was published last month. The most common cause of Indirect deaths, and the largest cause of maternal deaths over the whole year following delivery, was suicide, although not all of these were reported to the Enquiry and many were identified from linkage with the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The report therefore recommends that, "A specialist perinatal mental health team with the knowledge, skills and experience to provide care for women at risk of, or suffering from, serious postpartum mental illness should be available to every woman. Women who require psychiatric admission following childbirth should be admitted to a specialist mother and baby unit, together with their infant. In areas where this service is not available then admission to the nearest unit should take place." For more details see <http://www.cemach.org.uk/publications.htm>.

8/ The Scottish Executive Mental Health Division has pleasure in announcing a new research competition, which will be run on an annual basis. The competition will provide funding for up to 10 small research projects able to demonstrate a contribution to advancing the agenda of Scotland's National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being. Details of the 2004-05 competition can be found at <http://www.wellontheweb.net>.

9/ Issue 7 of the Newsletter for Mental Health Officers in Scotland is now available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/CS/UNASS/00015838/MHOnewsletter7.pdf>. It contains articles on a diverse range of subjects including: welfare guardianship, MHO and police services in Fife, problems with gender, Adults with Incapacity Act, human rights at the State Hospital, and how many MHOs does Scotland need.

10/ The Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland Rules of Procedure Regulations have been sent out for consultation. Responses should be submitted by 14 Jan 2005. The regulations set out how a patient with a mental disorder can expect to be treated when their case is put forward to the Tribunal for consideration of their application, reference, appeal or review under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. For further details and to download the consultation document visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/mhtspr.pdf>

11/ A shortlist of 11 locations has been drawn up for the new home of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. They are: Ayr, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Hamilton, Johnstone, Paisley, Port Glasgow and Stirling. The commission will now examine each of the options in further detail before making a recommendation to ministers. A final decision should be made by the end of the year with the move taking place in 2006.

12/ An evaluation report on Sorted Not Screwed Up - Aberdeen Foyer's Mental Health & Wellbeing Project is now available at <http://www.aberdeenfoyer.com/web/site/AberdeenFoyerArea/foyernews.asp?nostats=t> or by contacting [cathys@aberdeenfoyer.com](mailto:cathys@aberdeenfoyer.com).

13/ The sixth (Dec 04) edition of the Reforming Mental Health Law newsletter is now available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/health/mhnl6-00.asp>. The newsletter reports work which the Scottish Executive is undertaking to implement the Act and to establish the new Mental Health Tribunal. It includes: an update on the development of the Joint Local Implementation Plans (JLIPs); guides on advance statements and named persons; training materials; the new location for the Mental Health Tribunal; and details of a learning network for JLIP co-ordinators.

14/ If you are interested in developments in mental health information in England you can visit the Information and Informatics Network group section on the Mental Health Knowledge Community. This is a resource established by the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) - see <http://kc.nimhe.org.uk>. Bulletins from the Mental Health Information and Knowledge Board are available here too. The most recent contains a personal opinion on progress of certain areas of the work of the National Programme for IT.

15/ The findings of the Committee on Safety of medicines CSM Expert Working Group on the safety of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants were announced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on 6 Dec 04. A letter which has been sent to health professionals, and a questions and answers document, are available at the MHRA website. See [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRI\\_Letter\\_061204.pdf](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRI_Letter_061204.pdf) and [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRIs\\_QA\\_061204.pdf](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRIs_QA_061204.pdf). Proposed class warnings for product information are available at [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRIs\\_SPC.pdf](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/2004/SSRIs_SPC.pdf).

16/ The Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health are seeking to recruit a graduate research worker. For further details visit their web site at [http://www.sdcmh.org.uk/html\\_docs/work/work.htm](http://www.sdcmh.org.uk/html_docs/work/work.htm). The closing date for applications is 11.00 a.m. on Thursday 6th January, 2005.

17/ 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 ([www.isdscotland.org/imhip](http://www.isdscotland.org/imhip)) also includes details of pioneer local projects and relevant policy links.

18/ 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 [alastair.philp@nhs.net](mailto:alastair.philp@nhs.net). Why not forward them this e-mail to let them know it exists? We are particularly keen to improve our profile with GPs and practice team members. 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 ([alastair.philp@nhs.net](mailto:alastair.philp@nhs.net)). We will only improve mental health information if we work together and keep talking!

best wishes,

***Karen Brown***

***Alastair Philp***