



Hello again!

1/ Please find the November newsletter attached. This contains some details of what we have been up to this last month and a chart showing percentage of Scottish general hospital discharge records (SMR01) that mention psychological problems at any diagnostic position in years ending March 1999 to 2004.

2/ The first electronic update from the Scottish Recovery Network is now available. You can subscribe at <http://www.scottishrecovery.net/> The first edition introduces the Network, describes what they hope to achieve and explains how you can get involved in promoting and supporting recovery for people who experience long-term mental health problems in Scotland. It also contains an invitation you to the Network launch on the 16th of December 2004.

3/ Further content is now available at the NHS Education for Scotland training website prepared to aid transitional training and implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment)(Scotland) Act 2003. The website (see <http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/mha>) now has five scenarios and a further four to six will be added in coming months. E-learning and self assessment material will also be available early in 2005.

4/ Dipex's website, containing personal stories from people with ill health issues, now has a module on mental health. See <http://www.dipex.co.uk/depression>. As the website points out: " Being told you have an illness can be confusing and frightening and finding reliable information can be frustrating. DIPEX shows you a wide variety of personal experiences of health and illness. You can watch, listen to or read their interviews, find reliable information on treatment choices and where to find support. "

5/ A group considering "New Roles for Psychiatrists" have published a report for consultation. The group was established because of "the acute shortage of consultants in mental health, and the excessive workload thereby placed on those already in the profession" and brought together representatives of the British Medical Association, the National Institute for Mental Health in England, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the General Medical Council, the Modernisation Agency's Changing Workforce Programme, the Trust Confederation and the Department of Health. For more information see: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4073490&chk=4K2Tni [if this long link breaks to two lines you may need to paste it back together]

6/ The Scottish Executive Health Department: Mental Health Division have announced a repeat of their Mental health services accommodation and risk management survey. See <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/publications/DC20041020MentalAccom.pdf> for further details.

7/ 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 pioneer local projects and relevant policy links.

8/ 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. 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). We will only improve mental health information if we work together and keep talking!

best wishes,
alastair philp

