



Hello again!

1] Please find the Jul 2005 newsletter attached. This contains some details of what we worked on last month, and a chart showing prevalence of severe mental health problems per 100 people registered with a GP, Apr 04 - Mar 05.

2] The consultation on a draft Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland continues until 29 July 2005: the consultation documents are available at http://www.isdscotland.org/imhip_MHIS.

3] The Forensic Mental Health Services Managed Care Network have opened consultation on a number of working group reports. These are on: community services; services for children and adolescents; personality disorder; care standards; resolving clinical conflicts between services; and security liaison with the prison service. The reports can be perused at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/forensicnetwork/consolation.asp> [sic]. Comments should be sent to vivienne.gration@tsh.scot.nhs.uk by 19 Aug 05. The reports will also be the subject of workshops at the "Beyond Walls: Forensic network Conference" at EICC on 4 October 2005. Further details on this from Vivienne as well.

4] A definition of a secure unit (high or medium), for use with national inpatient discharge data returns (SMR04), has been prepared by ISD in conjunction with the Forensic Network. For more details contact michael.sibley@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk.

5] In the recent reshuffle of Scottish Ministers the mental health portfolio was taken by Lewis Macdonald, who becomes Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care. Rhona Brankin, the previous Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, is now Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs (Lewis Macdonald's previous post).

6] A report issued on 14 Jun 05 by the Institute for Public Policy Research, concluded that mental health is as important as physical health - <http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=1509>. The report sets out a vision for 2025, where mental health policy is no longer dominated by measures to protect the public from a small number of dangerous mentally ill people and the use of medication is drastically reduced. People experiencing problems will be able to access drop in services in their neighbourhood and public stigma around mental health will have declined. To

achieve this, IPPR argues, policies to tackle acute mental illness must be balanced by policies aimed at maintaining mental health and tackling common problems such as depression. Its report sets out policy recommendations to transform how governments and the public approach mental health, which it says need to become a bigger priority for all policymakers and not just a specialist concern within the NHS. For more see

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=293>

7] The third newsletter of the Centre for Confidence and Well-being - Confidence Matters - is now available at <http://www.centreforconfidence.co.uk/pdf/nletter/issue3.pdf>

8] The Scottish Executive has published the results of their Mental Health Services Accommodation and Risk Management Survey 2004/05. Over three quarters of accommodation scored fair or better for three indicators (decor, floor coverings and furnishings). For more details see

<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/publications/DC20050627mentalhealthservice.pdf>.

9] The Scottish Executive has also published the results of their latest survey of local positions on Psychiatric Emergency Plans (PEPs) and crisis services. The survey was conducted earlier this year and will be repeated in November. From the survey, 90% of NHS Board Areas are on course to have 24/7 crisis services in place by October 2005 and all areas predict implementing their PEP by the same date. For fuller details see www.show.scot.nhs.uk/mhwbsg.

10] The Scottish Executive has also published guidance on improved access to mainstream and specialist services for those with sensory loss and a mental health problem. The guidance offers a template for the design of services and is available at http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/mels/HDL2005_27.pdf.

11] A key aim of Scottish mental health policy is to raise public awareness of mental health and illness and to promote positive health and well-being. To help deliver this policy, Scotland's Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) training programme was launched on 20 June by NHS Health Scotland, on behalf of the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-being. Over the next three years, 300 SMHFA instructors will be trained, and will run SMHFA courses all over Scotland. By 2008, a target of 40,000 people in Scotland will have completed the 12-hour course. For more information, please visit www.smhfa.com.

12] The DrugInfoZone on the National Electronic Library for Health has been relaunched as the National electronic Library for Medicines <[HTTP://www.ehiprimarycare.com/o.cfm?o=7,0,21661,2425,2433](http://www.ehiprimarycare.com/o.cfm?o=7,0,21661,2425,2433)> (NeLM). The DrugInfoZone is the largest medical information portal within the NHS and the aim of the NeLM is to produce a comprehensive medicines knowledgebase for UK health professionals. It plans to provide a web based information resource, a platform to enable NHS users to find medicines information elsewhere in the NHS and to link medicines knowledge to the NHS Care Records Service being developed in England

13] Reviews are underway of the Scottish Health Survey and the Scottish Household Survey. Both contain data of public mental health interest.

* Further information on the Scottish Health Survey review is available from peter.craig@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. The review will address the structure and content of the survey, assess whether it meets the needs of stakeholders and represents value for money, and make recommendations on future approach, structure and content. Comments are invited by 31 Jul 05. The 2003-4 survey report will be published later this year and data from the previous (1998) survey, including section 11.3 on psychosocial health using the GHQ12, is available at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/scottishhealthsurvey>.

* Further information on the review of the Scottish Household Survey is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/16002/21660> and you can contribute at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/reviewcontribution>.

14] As mentioned in last month's newsletter, work continues on establishment of a core set of national, sustainable mental health and well-being indicators. See <http://www.phis.org.uk/info/mental.asp?p=bg>, or contact jane.parkinson@health.scot.nhs.uk for an updated briefing.

15] A new edition of the Scottish Executive's Reforming Mental Health Law Newsletter (number 8, dated Jun 05) is now available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/24104033/40354>.

16] 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.

17] 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). 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!