



Hello again,

Welcome to the September 2006 e-newsletter from the Improving Mental Health Information Programme.

## Contents

- 1] **What have we been doing? Graph of the month...**
- 2] **Book now: iMHIP06 is on Th 16 Nov 06**
- 3] **Newsletter for Mental Health Officers in Scotland: Summer 06 edition**
- 4] **Suicide trends and geographical variations in the United Kingdom, 1991-2004**
- 5] **Cheers? Understanding the relationship between alcohol and mental health**
- 6] **WHO publication on Mental Health Information Systems**
- 7] **Carers and Confidentiality**
- 8] **Mental Welfare Commission Roadshows**
- 9] **Report of the Standing Advisory Committee on Neurosurgery for Mental Disorder (NMD)**
- 10] **Your Emergency Care Summary: What does it mean for you?**
- 11] **WellScotland.info - National programme e-bulletin for August 06**
- 12] **Back issues available at iMHIP website**
- 13] **Spread the word**
- 14] **What do YOU think? Had enough?**

*[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.)*

### 1] **What have we been doing? Graph of the month...**

Please find the September 2006 newsletter attached. This contains some details of our activities, and a chart showing 'Deaths due to intentional self-harm or undetermined intent, Scotland 1996-2005'

### 2] **Book now: iMHIP06 is on Th 16 Nov 06**

The fifth annual Improving Mental Health Information Programme Conference - iMHIP06 - will be held on 16 Nov 06 in Edinburgh at Dynamic Earth. The aims of this fifth anniversary conference will be:

- \* Highlight progress in improving mental health information over the last five years
- \* Allow delegates to share experience
- \* Explore where we need to concentrate in the future (including work to allow benchmarking and performance management of mental health services).

The programme for the event and registration details are now available at <http://www.isdscotland.org/imhip06>.

### 3] **Newsletter for Mental Health Officers in Scotland: Summer 06 edition**

The Summer 2006 edition of the newsletter for Mental Health Officers in Scotland has been published. It is available at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/centres/nuffield/publications/MHONewsletter.htm> and contains articles on (among other topics): service user perspective of the new Act; how the act is impacting MHOs; MHO training; the Glasgow perinatal mental health service and use of

warrants.

#### **4] Suicide trends and geographical variations in the United Kingdom, 1991-2004**

A paper in Health Statistics Quarterly (Edition 31, Autumn 2006) published by The Office of National Statistics, reports large differences in suicide rates among the countries and regions of the UK. Using data from 1998 to 2004, Scotland had the highest suicide rate of the constituent countries of the UK: the rate for men in Scotland was 50 per cent higher than the rate for the UK as a whole. For women, the rate in Scotland was almost double that for the UK as a whole. For more details visit <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725>.

#### **5] Cheers? Understanding the relationship between alcohol and mental health**

The Mental Health Foundation have published a report on mental health and drinking and it is now available at <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/html/content/cheers.pdf>.

#### **6] WHO publication on Mental Health Information Systems**

The World Health Organisation have published a module on Mental Health Information Systems as part of a Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package. WHO define a mental health information system as "a system for collecting and applying information about a mental health service and the mental health needs of the population it serves". The module "begins with a discussion of what information should be collected and how this information can be used. Based on the experiences of several countries in developing health information systems, the module articulates a number of broad principles that a country should adhere to in the development of a mental health information system. It then lays out a step-by-step approach to designing, establishing and evaluating such a system. Information systems are essential for both long-term national mental health planning and service delivery at community and individual levels." For more details see <http://www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=15&codcch=627>

#### **7] Carers and Confidentiality**

The Mental Welfare Commission has produced new good practice guidance on how to balance the principle of carer involvement with the patient's right to confidentiality. The guidance document is available at [http://www.mwscot.org.uk/web/FILES/Publications/Carers\\_Confidentiality\\_web.pdf](http://www.mwscot.org.uk/web/FILES/Publications/Carers_Confidentiality_web.pdf).

#### **8] Mental Welfare Commission Roadshows**

The Mental Welfare Commission have organised a series of roadshows (in Glasgow, Perth and Edinburgh). Since October 2005, when the Mental Health (Care and Treatment)(Scotland) Act came into effect, the Commission have collected statistics on its use, visited service users, listened to advocates and had discussions with service providers. These events will allow you to learn Commission have discovered, allow you to feed back your experiences and help the Commission plan for the future. For further information (including dates and locations) see <http://www.mwscot.org.uk/web/site/Diary/Events.asp> or contact [bookings@mwscot.org.uk](mailto:bookings@mwscot.org.uk).

#### **9] Report of the Standing Advisory Committee on Neurosurgery for Mental Disorder (NMD)**

The third report by the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) appointed to oversee the operation of the Dundee based neurosurgery for mental disorder service has now been published and is available at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/publications/DC20060821nmd.pdf>. This follows a recent visit by the SAC to the service. The service offers a care and treatment for those with severe treatment resistant depressive disorder or obsessive compulsive disorder neurosurgery when all other interventions have failed. It operates on the basis of surgical intervention as a last resort and has recently been established as a national specialist service for NHS Scotland. The report should be read alongside the SAC's previous 2 reports and the reports by the NMD service. All these reports can be accessed on the publication's page of the SEHD Mental Health Division's web site at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/mental-health/servicespolicy/publications>.

### **10] Your Emergency Care Summary: What does it mean for you?**

This leaflet, the first in a series about changes in the way the NHS store health record information, has been sent to every household in Scotland. It tells you about something new - the Emergency Care Summary - which all patients in Scotland will soon have, and the benefits this will bring. It also explains how, in the future, all your health records will be stored and linked electronically, and why that will be good for your health care. See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/08/16152132/0> for more details.

### **11] WellScotland.info - National programme e-bulletin for August 06**

The National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-being (see <http://www.wellscotland.info/news/index.html>) have issued another e-bulletin that carries news, events and developments from the National Programme. It has items about: a conference to improve understanding of suicide; A personal insight into suicide; the launch of a national stigma survey; ending the 'round culture'; small grants to build capacity in social research; Breathing Space at an Indian Summer festival in Glasgow; and training and development opportunities for both public and professionals.

### **12] Back issues available at iMHIP website**

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.

### **13] Spread the word**

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](mailto: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).

### **14] What do YOU think? Had enough?**

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

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