



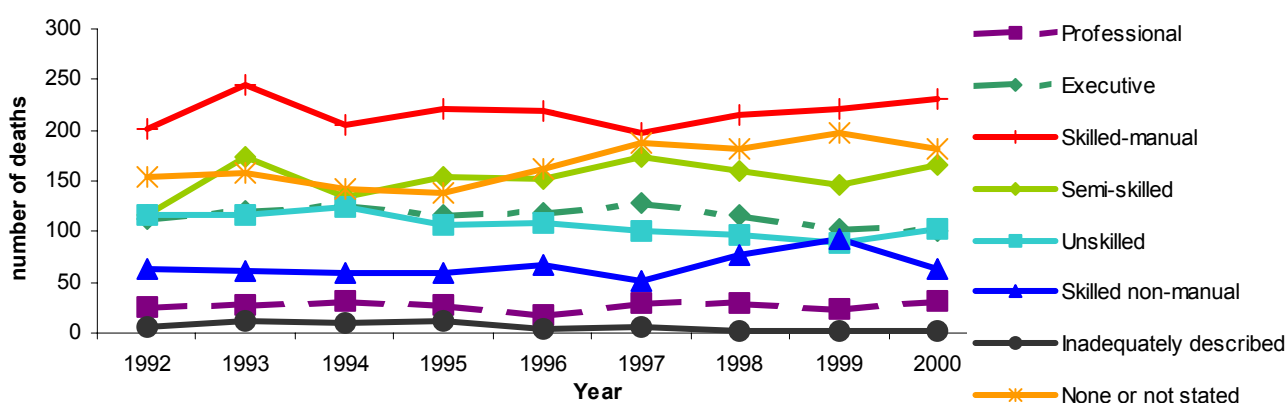
## Delivering our aims

We continue to believe that **better information** allows **better decisions** to be taken and **better care** to be delivered. **Bold blue text** in this newsletter links to further information at [our website](#) or elsewhere, that illustrates how we, and others, are doing this.

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited Karen Brown to the position of Programme Support Officer. Karen has experience in involvement of patient perspectives in national clinical guidelines and will be helping us to develop service user involvement in the programme, and to enhance our communications.

## Improving access to nationally consistent information: graph of the month

Number of deaths attributed to intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent<sup>1</sup>, Scotland, 1992-2001, by social class<sup>2</sup>



1. These figures are derived from statutory notifications of cause-of-death to the General Register Office for Scotland. They include deaths from intentional self-harm (suicides) and events of undetermined intent (undetermined deaths). This is because it is believed that the majority of undetermined deaths are hidden suicides, though this is less likely to be the case for the small numbers of cases aged under 15.

2. The information presented is based on occupation, as recorded on the death certificate, and has been restricted to the period 1992 to 2000, as a new classification (the National Statistics socio-economic NS-SEC) was introduced in 2001.

This data was originally presented in Scottish Parliamentary Question S1W-32112. For more up-to-date statistics on causes-of-death, readers are advised to consult the General Register Office for Scotland website at [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/03reference-table6](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/03reference-table6). To view other written answers to parliamentary questions visit [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/search\\_wa](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/search_wa).

## National meeting to promote improvements in mental health information

Our 2004 conference will be on 10 November from 10 am to 4pm at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in Queen Street, Edinburgh. Further details of the programme will be ready soon. The meeting will:

- Illustrate progress in exploring our aims and themes.
- Enable care providers to share experience and knowledge about local information initiatives
- Explore how we can support national improvements in mental health services

## Building consensus on what information to share and how

We have started a project to develop standardised information bundles to support transitions of care. A short-life working group comprised of service users, front-line care professionals and managers will support this work. Further details will shortly be reported on our website and are already available by contacting [Alastair](#). Outputs from this project will refine specifications for clinical information systems for mental health.

## Supporting national policy developments

We continue to be involved in several important pieces of national work. These include: the national evaluation of the **'Doing well by people with depression'** programme; refining a proposal for an audit of deliberate self-harm; and suggesting how information can be developed for quality improvement of inpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.