



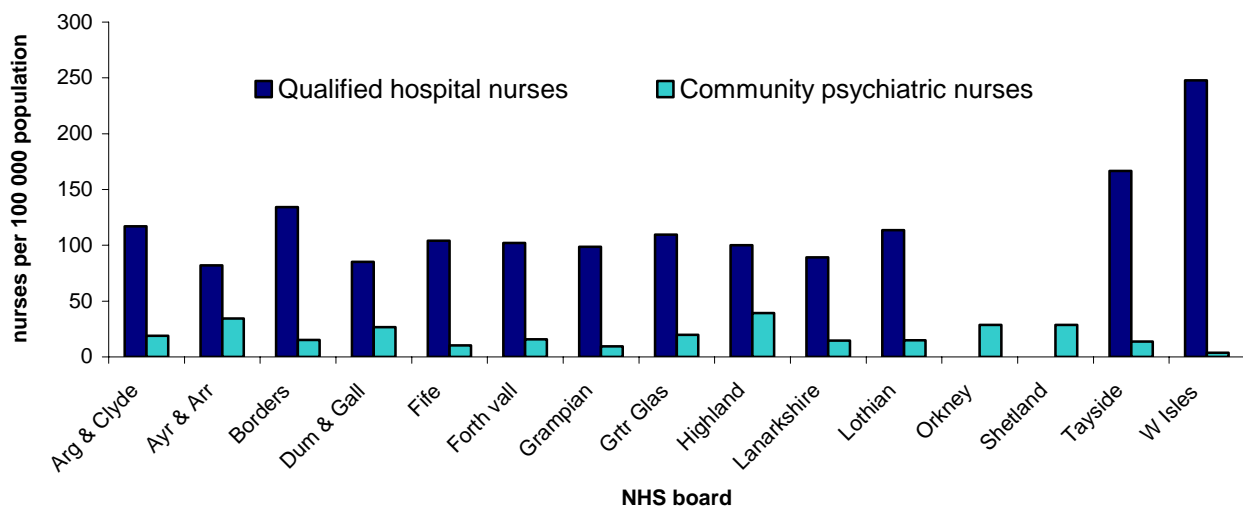
Delivering our aims

We continue to believe that better information allows better decisions to be taken and better care to be delivered. The programme is working to achieve this aim by: improving access to **nationally consistent information** to support local audit and planning; preparing a **Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland** and an implementation plan; building an **information culture** by involving users, carers and professionals; agreeing minimal **information sets** to be shared to support joined-up care for individuals; and reviewing and making recommendations on the **information systems** required.

Bold blue text in this newsletter links to further information at **our website** or elsewhere.

Improving access to nationally consistent information: graph of the month

Hospital and community psychiatric nurses: whole-time-equivalent nurses^{1,2} per 100 000 population, by NHS board, Sep 2004.



1 It is likely that some psychiatric nurses who are involved in community care are not recorded as such on payroll. Therefore, this category is likely to be under recorded.

2 For further information, including on how the data are collected and notes on interpretation, please see the 'Background Notes' at http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=2063&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

Building consensus on what information to share and how: progress last month

A multidisciplinary working group (including users and informal carers) to refine the content of the **Information Core for Integrated Care (ICIC)** met for the second time at the end of May. We agreed standards for recording demographic information on who is receiving care.

We also met the policy director of the **Scottish Association of Mental Health** to explore how diversity data (ethnicity, sexual preference and preferred language) should be captured in national information streams.

Supporting national policy developments

Consultation on **A Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland** continues. Comments are requested by 29 July 2005. A series of five regional **events to support the consultation** have been arranged.

As part of our consultation we met with the director of the **National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-being** to talk about how provision of information on mental well-being can be better integrated into the Mental Health Information Strategy. We also received an update on the work being done to develop **indicators of mental well-being in Scotland**, from that initiative's project manager.

To further our links with colleagues south of the border, Alastair has been granted observer status on the Information and Knowledge Board of the **National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE)**. This high-level group meets quarterly to coordinate mental health information policy across England.