



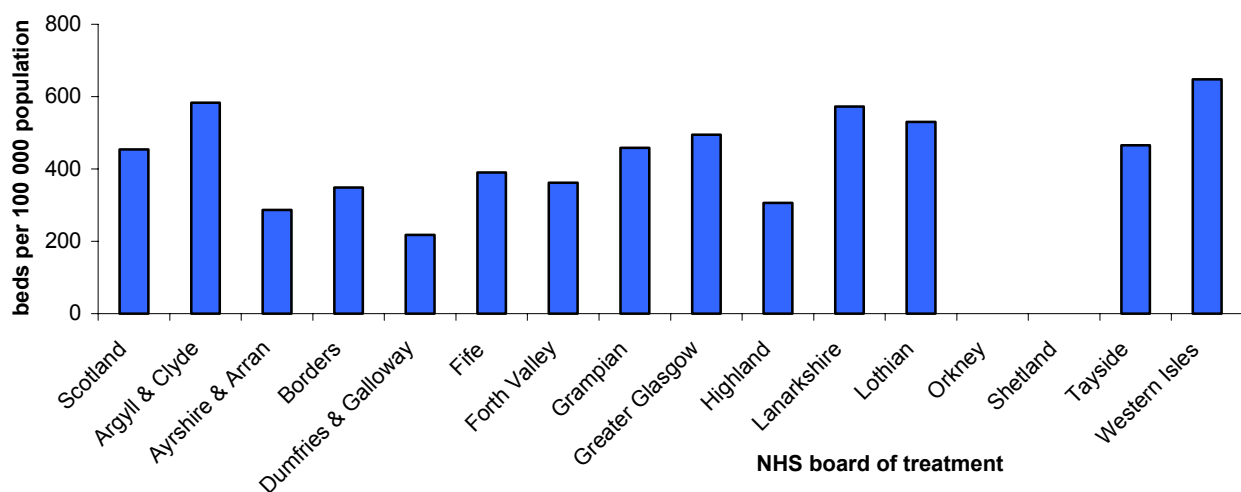
Delivering our aims

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.

The minutes of meetings of the programme board are now available on the web at <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=2764>.

Improving access to nationally consistent information: graph of the month

Average available staffed old age psychiatry beds^{1,2} per 100,000 population (aged 65+); by health board area of treatment: year ending 31 March 2003



1 This data, derived from ISD(S)1, was originally presented in the locality reports of Sandra Grant's [National Mental Health Services Assessment](#). For more information see <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=1667>.

2 Includes joint-user and contractual hospitals.

National meeting to promote improvements in mental health information

Our 2004 conference will be on 10 November from 10:00 am to 3:15pm at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in Queen Street, Edinburgh. The programme is now available at our web site and includes presentations on information to support: development of the mental health workforce; implementation of the Mental Health (Care & Treatment)(Scotland) Act 2003; and introduction of the mental health indicators in the GMS contract. Workshops will discuss all five strands of the Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland, which will shortly be the subject of a national consultation.

Building consensus on what information to share and how

We met with representatives of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Scottish Division to explore how their views can be gathered on programme activities such as the [Information Core for Integrated Care](#), information bundles to support transitions in care, and the Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland.

The report on the retrieval of Information Core for Integrated Care information from existing mental health information systems has now been completed. We aim to place the report on our web site in October, following a meeting to discuss how to implement the recommendations.

Supporting national policy developments

We have continued work on the Mental Health Information Strategy for Scotland and have been discussing this with many interested groups. These include [NHS Education Scotland](#), [NHS24](#), [NHS Health Scotland](#) and the [National Institute for Mental Health in England](#).

We also gave a presentation on our workshops with service users, to the [eHealth in Practice steering group](#). And met with the Psychiatric Advisor to the Scottish Executive, and with [NHS Quality Improvement, Scotland](#) on information to support approaches to quality improvement in mental health.