



Health Department  
Directorate of Service Policy and Planning

Women and Children's Unit  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

## CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

### Summary

1. This letter outlines the work of the Child Health Support Group (CHSG), including:

- its current membership (Annex A)
- its remit (Annex B); and
- its forward workplan (Annex C).

### Background

2. The Child Health Support Group was established in 2000 by the Minister for Health and Community Care, to harness professional expertise in driving forward improvements in child health and in the quality of child health services across Scotland.

3. The Group comprises professionals from medicine, nursing, allied health professions, social work and education from services across Scotland to advise on and assist progress of policies and service developments at national and local level. It is chaired by Malcolm Wright, Chief Executive of NHS Dumfries and Galloway. A full membership list is attached at **Annex A**.

4. The CHSG works with Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Executive, the NHS, local authorities and the voluntary sector to improve child health and child health services.

5. In its first two years, the CHSG:

- Developed a national template for Child Health Services which is now being used by NHS Boards to plan and commission their services.
- Ensured that a local Lead Commissioner for Children's Health Services has been appointed in each NHS Board.
- Visited all NHS Boards in Scotland to review local health care systems and offer advice and support on development.

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2002**

### Addresses

#### For action

Chief Executives, Health Boards  
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts  
Directors of Social Work/Chief Social Work Officers

#### For information

Scottish Child Health Commissioners-  
Chief Executive, Health Education  
Board for Scotland  
Chief Executive, Scottish Health  
Advisory Service  
Chief Executive, Clinical Standards  
Board for Scotland  
Royal Colleges  
Chief Executives, Local Authorities  
Chief Executive, CoSLA  
Directors of Education  
Scottish Children's Reporter  
Administration  
Appropriate voluntary organisations

### Enquiries to:

Mrs Mary Sloan  
Women and Children's Unit  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor [East Rear]  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 4089

Fax: 0131-244 4775

E-mail: [mary.sloan@nhs.uk](mailto:mary.sloan@nhs.uk)  
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- Provided advice to inform the Scottish Executive's response to the report of the Bristol Inquiry.
- Contributed to development of the Scottish Executive Health Department's self assessment tool for children's services.
- Provided valuable input to a review in Scotland of better integrated services for children, the conclusions of which are published in the report *For Scotland's Children*.
- Organised a successful child health conference in February 2002 to discuss and disseminate information about good practice and innovation in Scottish child health services.

6. The CHSG has successfully raised the profile and priority of child health services locally as well as nationally and has played a crucial part in sharing expertise and advice about best practice across the country. The Group now has comprehensive information about child health services in Scotland, and where there are strengths and areas for development.

### **Future work**

7. The Group has revised its remit and workplan for the next two years to continue and extend its work in driving forward improvements in partnership with the Lead Child Health Commissioners in NHS Boards. A copy of the Group's revised remit is attached at **Annex B**.

8. The Group will continue to provide expert advice to Scottish Ministers on developing and improving child health across all services. It will also have an important role in supporting the Scottish Cabinet Sub Committee on Children's Services which was set up, and is chaired by, the First Minister to ensure real improvement in services to meet children's needs.

9. The Child Health Support Group has identified five key work areas and has established workgroups to take these forward:

- Promoting social justice through better integrated and high quality services for children
- Supporting regional planning groups in reviewing specialist paediatric services
- Promoting high quality community based child health services, including work with the national clinical standards body in Scotland to develop national standards for child health
- Championing and developing child and adolescent mental health services; and
- Promoting the involvement of children and young people in NHSScotland.

10. The workplan is outlined in more detail at **Annex C**.

### **Action**

11. Chief Executives and Directors are invited to draw this letter to the attention of all with a responsibility or interest in child health and child health services.

12. Chief Executives and Directors are invited to note the role and remit of the Child Health Support Group and to seek its advice when such advice would be considered useful.

13. This HDL is available on both the Scottish Health website ([www.show.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk)) and the CHSG site ([www.show.scot.nhs.uk/chsg/home.htm](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/chsg/home.htm)).

Yours faithfully

**GODFREY ROBSON**  
**Director of Service Policy and Planning**

**CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP - MEMBERSHIP****Chairman**

Mr Malcolm Wright Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board

**Members**

Ms Anne Brockman Head II Paediatric Occupational Therapist, Grampian University Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Graham Bryce Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Chair of SNAP CAMHS Review

Douglas Bulloch Chair of the Action Team and Chairman of Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Dr Linda de Caestecker Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Greater Glasgow Health Board

David Cumming Head of Children's Services, Glasgow City Council

Dr Zoë M Dunhill Patient Services Director, Children's Services, Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Stewart Forsyth Clinical Director of Paediatrics, Dundee Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

Dr Laurence Gruer Public Health Institute of Scotland

Dr Sally Harkness GP, Inverurie, Grampian Primary Care

Ms Margaret Kinsella Principal Health Promotions Officer, Greater Glasgow Health Board

Ms Anne-Marie Knox Child Protection Nurse Specialist, Dumbarton and Alexandria

Shiona Mackie Medical Director, Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust

Dr Anna Murphy General Medical and Renal Consultant, Yorkhill NHS Trust

Dr Bruce Robertson Director of Education, Highland Council

Brenda Townsend Director of Nursing, Yorkhill NHS Trust

Professor George Youngson Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Grampian University Hospital NHS Trust

**Scottish Executive**

Dr Ian Bashford, Senior Medical Officer  
 Mrs Jean Swaffield, Nursing Adviser  
 Jackie McRae, Women and Children's Unit  
 Mary Sloan, Women and Children's Unit

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## CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP - REMIT

The Group will work with the Scottish Executive, the NHS, local authorities and the voluntary sector to improve child health and children's health services. The Group will:

- Provide expert advice to Scottish Ministers on the development and improvement of child health across all services
- Assist the identification of innovation and improvements in services nationally and locally
- Provide advice on development and evaluation of services with a focus on promoting child health and well-being
- Support the NHS in Scotland to strengthen local service provision and delivery of children's health and well-being
- Be a catalyst for the dissemination and implementation of best practice nationally, and
- Be a focus for communication between stakeholders concerned with child health, including children, young people and their families

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## CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP - OUTLINE WORKPLAN

### General

- Publication of report of first work programme
- Stakeholder events on particular themes - Hall 4, health care for looked after children
- Continuing support for the NHS in Scotland through focused follow up visits to local health care systems

Outline objectives for each of the subgroups:

### Promoting social justice through better integrated and high quality services

Lead: Bruce Robertson

- Support for Cabinet Sub-committee on Children's Services (CSCS) work
- Support for implementation of the Action Team's report, *For Scotland's Children*
- Contribute to development and implementation of the Scottish plan for health improvement focusing on the early years and teenage transitions
- Input to development of integrated assessment framework
- Input to rationalisation of child health information

### Review and planning of specialist paediatric services

Lead: George Youngson

- Input to implementation of national guidance on regional planning in relation to child health
- Input to development of national centre on workforce planning
- Support for Local Lead Child Health Commissioners' Network
- Develop a focus for academic paediatrics
- Consider the role of dedicated children's hospitals
- Review children's A&E services

### Strengthening community-based child health services

Lead: Zöe Dunhill

- Develop standards for aspects of service delivery in partnership with Clinical Standards Board for Scotland (CSBS)
- Input to redesign of care around disabled children
- Raise the profile of, and develop effective models for delivering child health in LHCCs
- Input to development of framework for school nursing
- Facilitate dissemination of good practice linked to the template

### Champion and Develop CAMHS

Lead: Linda de Caestecker

- Inform the Executive's response to the forthcoming SNAP report on child and adolescent mental health
- Support possible pilot to develop a local integrated children's service drawing on the lessons from Joint Futures Group

Supporting the *Patient Focus, Public Involvement* agenda in child health services

Lead: Brenda Townsend

- Application of Partners in Change to children and young people
- Input to development of response to the national review of child protection

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