



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
26 August 1996

Dear Colleague

**HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS - REPORT OF A
POLICY REVIEW**

Summary

1. This letter brings to your attention the publication on 26 August 1996 of "Health Services in Schools - Report of a Policy Review", a copy of which is attached. *
2. The report is intended as a guide to purchasers on the services to be considered for inclusion in contract specifications for a school health service and as an aid to providers in the delivery of such a service. Annex A contains a summary of the background to this report and its main recommendations.

Action

3. Health Board General Managers and Trust Chief Executives are invited to take account of the recommendations of the report. Further copies will be sent to Trust Chief Executives for distribution to Directors of Clinical Dental Services, Consultant Community Paediatricians, Senior Clinical Medical Officers and Clinical Medical Officers.
4. Copies of the report are also being sent to local authority Directors of Education and those organisations listed in Annex B.

Yours sincerely

KEVIN J WOODS
Director of Purchasing

ISO LIBRARY B244
Common Services Agency
NHS in Scotland
Trinity Park House
South Trinity Road
Edinburgh EH5 3SQ

Addressees

For action:
General Managers, Health Boards
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

For information:
General Manager, HEBS
General Manager, CSA
General Manager, State Hospital
Board for Scotland
Executive Director, SCPMDE
Organisations listed in Annex B

Enquiries to:

Miss K Glancy
PHPU1-3
Room 54B
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2544
Fax: 0131-244 2846

Further copies:

Additional copies may be obtained
from HMSO Bookshops priced
£15.85

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
RECEIVED	
27 AUG 1996	
FILE No	
REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN
PS 27/8	

* AVAILABLE FROM ISO LIBRARY

Health Services in Schools - A Policy Review

Background

1. The last review of policy on the school health service was in 1980. There have clearly been many developments since that date, in particular:

- *Scotland's Health: A Challenge To Us All* (1991) which placed priority on the health and welfare of young people;
- the availability of a comprehensive programme of pre-school medical surveillance, which is increasingly the responsibility of the General Medical Practitioner;
- the integration of an increasing number of children and young people with special educational needs into mainstream schools.

These trends all have implications for the school health service and the role of school health professionals.

2. The remit of the policy review group was:-

“to examine health services currently provided in schools; to identify areas of good practice which are likely to prove effective and cost-effective; and to make recommendations to purchasers and providers”.

The Report

3. The report acknowledges that the main responsibility for child health care and health promotion in the community rests with primary care, but points out that there is a continuing role for a school health service, as school health professionals are uniquely placed to carry out general child health surveillance and health promotion, as well as delivering targeted support for children with special educational needs.

4. The report defines the three aims of the school health services. These are:

- to promote the physical, mental and social well-being of children within a school setting;
- to identify and provide remedial action and support for pupils with health problems; and
- to assess and provide services for pupils with special educational needs and their families.

5. Chapter 4 of the report identifies the essential elements of school health services as being:-

- health assessment and selective medical examinations;

- screening for growth, vision and hearing;
- routine dental health inspections;
- prevention and control of communicable diseases, including the delivery of immunisation programmes;
- assessment of, and support for, children with special educational needs; and
- participation in health education programmes and in the overall health promoting activities in schools.

6. A key feature of the report is a series of checklists to assist purchasers and providers to draw up a specification and to deliver appropriate, effective and cost-effective school health services, properly integrated with wider community health services.

7. The report is intended as a guide to purchasers on the services to be considered for inclusion in contract specifications and as an aid to providers in the delivery of these services. It draws a distinction between statutory services and those that are either essential or desirable for medical or dental health reasons. The need for interagency collaboration to benefit child health is emphasised throughout the report. Particular importance is also attached to the evaluation of services in terms of their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

Professors of Nursing
Directors of Nurse Education
Royal College of Nursing Scottish Board
Royal College of Midwives Scottish Board
UNISON
Scottish Health Visitors Association
Community District Nursing Association
Practice Nurse Association
National Board for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting
British Paediatric Association
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow
BMA Scotland
SACH