



# THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
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**NHS  
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NHS Management Executive  
St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

1st November 1997  
Telephone 0131-244  
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Dear Colleague

## EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTHCARE - COMMON CORE WORK PROGRAMME

### SCOTTISH NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

### MENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO

#### Summary

1. A portfolio of reports on mental health prepared by the Scottish Needs Assessment Programme (SNAP) is attached. \*
2. The portfolio aims to assist the NHS in Scotland to take forward the essential tasks of developing mental health services and promoting the attainment and maintenance of the best mental health possible in the Scottish population. It comprises 7 reports, and is in 4 sections:
  - a. overviews of mental ill health in Scotland and how the discipline of public health should contribute to its improvement;
  - b. reviews of two of the major public health problems in Scotland - dementia and suicidal behaviour in young people. A report on a third - schizophrenia - is currently in preparation;
  - c. a clear indication of how to approach improving mental health in the workplace; and
  - d. guidance on 2 key areas of mental health services - the involvement of users and carers in needs assessment and the effects of the changing patterns of service provision.

#### Addressees

##### For action:

General Managers, Health Boards  
GP Fundholders

##### For information:

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts  
General Manager, Common Services  
Agency  
Chief Executive, Health Education  
Board For Scotland  
General Manager, State Hospital  
Executive Director, SCPMDE

#### Enquiries to:

(For copies of the portfolio)

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#### General Information

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\* AVAILABLE TO LOOK AT IN  
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11-11: 101594

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**Action**

3. Health Boards should use this portfolio when assessing local needs, in discussions with Trusts and GPs about the preparation of Health Improvement Programmes, and to assist in the implementation of the Framework For Mental Health Services In Scotland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J Woods', written in a cursive style.

**KEVIN J WOODS**

Director of Strategy and Performance Management