

## THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

# Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY			
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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.

## NHS MEL(1997)74

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

1st November 1997 Telephone 0131-244 Fax 0131-244 2683

#### 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)

Ms Jackie Gregan SNAP 69 Oakfield Avenue GLASGOW G12 8QQ

Tel: 0141 330 5607 Fax: 0141 330 3687

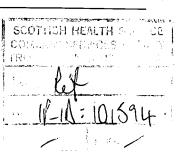
#### General Information

Miss Margaret Duncan
NHS Management Executive
Policy & Performance Management
Division
Room 275
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2291 Fax: 0131-244 2051

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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

**KEVIN J WOODS** 

Director of Strategy and Performance Management