



Dear Colleague

REPORT OF THE SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON CFS/ME

1. I enclose a copy of the [report of the Short Life Working Group on CFS/ME](#), which was set up by the Executive following the publication in January 2002 of the report of the Independent Working Group on CFS/ME set up by the Chief Medical Officer (England). The Short Life Working Group's remit was:

“Using the conclusions of Sir Liam Donaldson’s Expert Working Group Report and the best evidence-based practice available as a basis, to consider, and report as rapidly as possible on:

- Ways of improving the commissioning and management of care for patients of all ages with CFS/ME in Scotland.
- What support could be offered to the primary health care team and to local authority and other partners in assessing individual needs to help patients with CFS/ME and their carers.
- How care pathways for patients with CFS/ME in Scotland can be set up to give people access to the care they are assessed as needing.
- How the expertise of patient and support groups can best be utilised in partnership with the statutory organisations, to explain the disorder, and the impact it has, to the public and professions, and to offer support to those affected and their carers.”

2. The Short Life Working Group has endorsed the view of the Expert Working Group that CFS/ME is a genuine, serious and potentially disabling illness and has made recommendations for a planned and structured approach to its management in Scotland.

7 February 2003

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts
Chief Executives, Local Authorities
Directors of Education
Local Health Councils
Chief Executives, Special Health Boards
Voluntary Health Organisations with an interest in CFS/ME

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3. The Executive accepts that CFS/ME is a condition which can have a very significant impact on the individuals affected and their families and which affects a significant number of people in Scotland. The Short Life Working Group's recommendations are commended to NHS Boards. The Executive will write again to NHS Boards early in 2004 to enquire about progress made in the planning of services for people with CFS/ME.

4. For further information or additional copies of the report, please contact Kathleen Glancy on 0131 244 2544 or June Doig on 0131 244 2506.

Yours sincerely

IAN GORDON

Director of Service Policy and Planning