Dear Euan Bain

Health & Sport Committee Enquiry into CAMHS

Thank you for your email dated 10 April 2009.

Please see below response on behalf of NHS Fife.

What targets have been set for the implementation of the framework?

A report with the ultimate aim of full Framework implementation is currently being produced which will make recommendations for specialist CAMHS development over six years. As currently drafted, it includes proposals for enhancing tier 4 services submitted as part of the recent successful Regional bid for additional funding from the Specialist Children’s Services Fund. NHS Fife has agreed to support this development with match funding of £78k revenue for 2009 and an additional £78k for 2010.

Are there any risks associated with those targets, either in relation to hindering achievement of the target or in terms of potential consequences for the organisation?

It is a core function of the Board to prioritise across a range of demands of which CAMHS is only one. Proposals for increase in resource for CAMHS will be considered alongside other proposed service developments.

In addition to this a period of rapid workforce growth within Specialist CAMHS across Scotland has the potential to expose a net skills shortage in key disciplines which will only be resolved by a national as well as local strategic problem solving approach.
To what extent has staffing need been estimated in relation to delivering the plan and what was the outcome of any such assessment?

NHS Fife have asked a group of clinicians and senior managers to produce a comprehensive proposal for Framework implementation based on a local assessment of need and against an analysis of current service gaps. The proposal, which is due to be reported for the consideration of NHS Fife Strategic Management Team in June 2009, is likely to contain a recommendation for significant additional clinical posts phased in over a six year period. To implement the Framework in full as currently envisaged involves additional posts in all the main disciplines; e.g. psychiatry, nursing, child psychology, child psychotherapy, family therapy, occupational therapy and others.

Funding for seven additional posts has already been secured following the combination of a successful regional bid (see bullet point one) and NHS Fife’s commitment to fund 50% of the required investment in this particular element of service provision.

How many whole-time equivalents at the generic, multi-disciplinary level per 100,000 of population have been agreed?

There is no overall local agreement which covers the time period to 2015. Seven new posts have been agreed for 2009 and 2010 (see above). This takes the local ratio of clinicians to 14.38 whole time equivalents per 100,000 population. Reporting from a Health Service perspective only, if the eventual proposal were to lead to an increase to 72 wtes (from 51.78 after the appointment of the 7 new clinicians) this would mean 20 whole time equivalent clinicians per 100,000 which would be consistent with the advice provided in the 2006 advisory document, “Getting The Right Workforce Getting The Workforce Right”.

I attach the current working draft implementation plan.

Yours sincerely

GEORGE J BRECHIN
Chief Executive