Dear Sir

Health & Sport Committee Inquiry into CAMHS

Thank you for your request on 9th April for additional information from NHS Grampian in respect of the above inquiry and in particular our plans for the implementation of "The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care (2005)".

As requested, I now attach a copy of “CAMHS Proposals to meet National Strategies and Targets” which is the NHS Grampian development plan for CAMHS in the Grampian area and this includes the key Health elements of the 2005 framework. I also attach a copy of the supporting summary paper that was presented to and supported by our senior Operational Management Team in June 2008.

Please also find attached a copy of the NHSG part of a North of Scotland bid for CAMHS and I can confirm that confirmation was received on 9th April from the Scottish Government that the full bid had been successful. I can confirm that these new monies along with the NHSG match funding will be used to increase capacity and improve services for children and young people with severe mental health conditions.

Multi agency working for the CAMHS agenda is longstanding and well established in Grampian and the joint Strategic Management Group comprising representatives from CAMHS, Child Health, Community Health Partnerships, Local Authorities and the Voluntary sector oversees this agenda on a pan Grampian basis. There are integrated partnership working groups for CAMHS in each of the 3 local authorities and these multi agency groups ensure progress with the framework for their respective areas.

Key Targets for implementing framework

- Increase the CAMHS by 65% by 2016
• Ensure effective “Link Mental Health Persons” (LMHPs) arrangements in place across all primary and secondary schools by 2010
• Development of “Primary Mental Health Workers” (PMHWs)
• Enhance multi agency working and support for Looked After Children

Risks

• Ability to continue to identify investment funding for CAMHS in current financial climate (potential requirement £1.9 million through to 2016)
• Availability of suitably qualified and trained staff and ability to recruit to new posts where every area of the country will have similar aspirations for CAMHS

Staffing Estimates

• Need to increase from current 44.5 wte to 110 wte CAMHS staff by 2016
• Acceptance that this would move CAMHS to the agreed national staffing benchmark levels (20 wte per 100k population)

Whole Time Equivalents – generic / multi-disciplinary level (PMHWs)

• NHSG and its partners are looking to develop PMHWs aligned to secondary schools and their feeder primaries with relevant links to the LMHPs.
• Our CAMHS leadership project is projecting a need for 30-35 PMHWs for the Grampian area and we currently have 6 in post. (5.45 wte per 100k pop. / 6.36 wte per 100k pop.)

I trust this information is of assistance to yourself and the Health and Sports Committee inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require further information.

Yours sincerely

Richard M Carey
Chief Executive