Dear Christine

Health & Sport Committee inquiry into CAMHS

I am writing in response to your letter of 9 April regarding the Health & Sport Committee’s inquiry into child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and in particular the implementation of the 2005 framework, *The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care*.

Although NHS Quality Improvement Scotland does not have a direct role in implementing the framework, we have a commitment to help improve CAMHS and I have detailed below some points on our work to date and hope that this may assist your inquiry.

Work to date

- We undertook a national audit of the services provided by each NHS board against the SIGN clinical guideline for ADHD (attention deficit and hyperkinetic disorders) which reported in April 2008. This study gave an understanding of the quality of services for children with ADHD but also highlighted that far fewer Scottish children than we would expect to see (from epidemiological estimates) actually have a diagnosis of the condition.

This prompted the Scottish Government to commission an additional piece of work to look at ways to raise awareness of ADHD – particularly in the education setting and in primary care to try to ensure that ADHD is considered as a potential underlying cause in children who are experiencing difficulties. This work is being taken forward in conjunction with colleagues in HMIE.
• We have commissioned Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh to undertake a targeted study of service pathways for children with ADHD within a distinct geographical area. Part of this study will involve establishing and supporting a learning network to agree shared approaches to common challenges when supporting children with ADHD which could be shared with and implemented within other NHS board areas.

• We have appointed a clinical advisor in child and adolescent mental health in autumn 2008. Her role is to provide clinical advice regarding CAMHS, to link into any relevant national strategic groups, and to lead on the CAMHS aspects of our new mental health strategy 2009/12.

• We facilitated a national CAMHS stakeholder day in March 2009 which brought together colleagues from Government, health, education, social work and voluntary organisations with a view to identifying areas to include in the new mental health strategy 2009/2012 strategy and areas for collaboration and joint working around CAMHS improvement.

Work planned

• Our new mental health strategy 2009/12 will contain all of our planned CAMHS related work. Provisional publication date June 2009

I hope this helps with the Committee’s inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Jan Warner
Interim Chief Executive