



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
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To: Chief Executives of NHS Boards
Chief Executives of Local Authorities

Your ref:
Our ref:

14 October 2004

Dear Colleague

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS – STATUTORY GUIDANCE

1. Section 2 of the National Health Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2004 provides for the establishment of Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) by Health Boards. The Act came into full force on 30th September. The Community Health Partnerships Regulations (Scotland) 2004 came into force on 1 October and copies may be obtained from The Stationary Office ISBN 0–11–06923-30.
2. Section 4B(7) of the National Health Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2004 provides that Scottish Ministers may issue and publish statutory guidance about CHPs. Health Boards are under a duty to have regard to such guidance in preparing schemes of establishment which should be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for approval no later than 24 December 2004. The intention is to have CHPs established by 1 April 2005.
3. A copy of the statutory guidance is attached for your attention. This guidance contains the key questions that should be addressed by Health Boards and their partners in preparing their schemes of establishment.
4. This guidance takes into account the comments we received throughout the consultation process. All final comments, together with the Executive's response to these comments will shortly be posted on the CHP web site <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/chp/>. We hope this will be helpful in demonstrating where the guidance has been amplified or clarified to respond to the comments received.
5. We have sought to make clear in the guidance the minimum requirements for all CHPs as prescribed in regulations, and, at the same time, to offer flexibility so that Boards, working with their partners, can develop local arrangements to suit local needs. In this context, we recognise the different circumstances across Scotland, in relation to the size and complexity of Board/Local Authority areas, and to the ongoing development of integrated services within the NHS and joint working with partners, particularly local authorities. We have sought to maximise the flexibility available to partners to reflect local circumstances and local aspirations, and we are prepared to consider exercising the discretion available within the regulations. At the same time, we have defined in the guidance core objectives for all CHPs and the benefits which we wish to see achieved through CHPs across Scotland. We will be developing these further as part of the ongoing work on the Performance Assessment Framework.



6. We are aware that there are particular challenges around the alignment of CHPs with the Joint Future Agenda. Consequently, we will be providing information to support the preparation and evaluation of schemes of establishment from a Joint Future perspective. We will also continue to work with stakeholders to develop supplementary advice notes on other issues such as the relationship between CHPs and:

- Children's Services
- Learning Disabilities
- Health Improvement
- Voluntary Services

7. I would be grateful if you could ensure that the guidance is passed on to all of those with an interest in CHPs in your area. Schemes of establishment should be sent to:

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Yours sincerely

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