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Date 29/2/08
Ref CW/Responses/sf

Nicola Radley
Mental Health Division
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St Andrews House
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Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Nicola

Consultation on Towards A Mentally Flourishing Scotland

NHS Education for Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

NHS Education for Scotland was established on 1st April 2002 as a Special Health Board accountable to the Scottish Government Health Department and is responsible for providing educational solutions for workforce development for all staff in the NHS in Scotland in order to improve the quality of patient care.

NES supports the thematic strategic approach outlined in the paper. However, feedback from our stakeholders, in particular those representing children and young people and colleagues from Primary Care, raises concern about the achievability of some of these actions in the absence of clear systems and processes around the identification of, and referral routes for individuals at risk, particularly in social /community settings such as schools and colleges.

Concerns were also raised about some of the language, even in the easy read version, remaining inaccessible. Specific comments related to the diagrams on page 4, which younger people found confusing, and there was an unease about some of the language used around the prevention of physical disability, which they felt might further stigmatise young people with disabilities.

It is NES's intention to work in partnership with NHS Health Scotland specifically around the education and training needs of staff, as identified by NHS Boards and their partner organisations. To this end, NES and NHS Health Scotland have organised a series of strategic meetings to explore how this may be progressed. Clearly, our existing workplans – some of which are designed to support Delivering for Mental Health targets - are generating useful outputs which Boards will be able to use more widely than within Mental Health services. We are already exploring how we might use the 10 Essential Shared Capability training and the Recovering training resources and infrastructure to contribute to the emotional literacy of the wider NHS workforce.

Similarly, work on increasing the availability of psychological therapies training in a range of treatment modalities will support health improvement work with those who have problems with alcohol, drugs, obesity etc.

NES would welcome further strategic discussions with the Mental Health Division and NHS Health Scotland as Boards identify their priorities for action from this paper. The Lead contact person for this work will be Jane Cantrell (Jane.Cantrell@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely



Carol Watson
Associate Director of Nursing and Midwifery