

## **The Future of HeadsUpScotland and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Framework**

The revitalised Scottish Executive agenda around child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) began in 2000 with the commissioning of needs assessment concerning the mental health of Scotland's children and young people. The resulting SNAP report made a number of recommendations which, through the work of the minister's advisory Child and Young People's Health Support Group, led to the Framework consultation in 2004 and then the 2005 launch by Ministers of *The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care*.

Since 2004 the Scottish Executive has provided support – through the HeadsUpScotland project - to champion this Framework and to advocate for improvements to the mental health of children and young people in Scotland.

HeadsUpScotland was funded initially for two years. During this time the project was hosted within the Glasgow Centre for Population Health and much has been achieved through the excellent work of the Director, Anne Clark, supported, in the last year, by Workforce Development Manager Maria Dale.

Now that the programme is moving into the implementation phase, the work is to be taken forward in a different way.

First of all, the Executive has asked the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health (SDC), an independent agency with a strong track record in promoting and supporting mental health development work across Scotland, to bring forward proposals for mainstreaming the agenda of mental health of children and young people, across Scotland, and on supporting the delivery of the Framework.

**From April 1<sup>st</sup>, SDC takes this development work forward, with HeadsUpScotland continuing for a further two years, now under their auspices. SDC will soon advertise the reconfigured post of Lead Officer for HeadsUpScotland. Anne Clarke continues in that role at present, working with SDC (tel: 0131 555 5959).**

The HeadsUpScotland Workforce Development Project has developed a clear work programme around building training capacity and opportunities and so NHS Education for Scotland (NES) takes over the hosting of that project, until March 2008. Maria Dale, the Project Manager, is now working out of the NES Glasgow Office (tel: 0141 223 1400. Maria's email contact details remain [maria.dale@nhs.net](mailto:maria.dale@nhs.net))

To reflect these changes in the role and function of HeadsUpScotland, and to reflect the important role of the Scottish Executive in ensuring that the Framework is being implemented, a new steering group will supercede the HeadsUpScotland Steering Group. Details of the remit and membership of that group will be published in the coming months.

In the meantime, I would like to thank those who have already made the work of HeadsUpScotland a success and look forward to further achievements in promoting and

developing Scotland's capacity to address the mental health needs of our children and young people.

**Dr Graham Bryce**  
**Chair**  
**HeadsUp Scotland Steering Group**