Post Natal Depression
Integrated Care Pathway

Annmarie Burgess, Lead Health Visitor in SWLHCC is currently writing up the final report and recommendations, regarding the Post Natal Depression Integrated Care Pathway Pilot, as run by SWLHCC with Sure Start funding.

Following the publication of the Report, work will be required on a locality basis to identify and map services and provision against the recommendations within the Pathway.

It is anticipated that the Community Information System will continue to provide support for the Pathway development and implementation, however will require some modification.

Work is currently being undertaken to provide templates for patient surveys to support the implementation across the localities.

There would also be requirement to seek some funding to support a Lothian Primary Care Trust wide print run of the Pathway, which can be applied across the localities to support Practice and service provision.

Breastfeeding

The group of Breastfeeding Link Nurses for Lothian Primary Care Trust and partners in LUHNT and West Lothian have for a six-month period combined their meetings with the local Joint Breastfeeding Initiative.

This group will be led by the Infant Feeding Adviser, Dorothy Anne Timoney, who took up her post on February 17th 2003.

The joint meetings will take place over a period of six months in order to assess how we can improve joint working and meeting the requirement of the Lothian Breastfeeding Strategy.

A NHS Lothian Breastfeeding Policy is being written, this will be circulated for consultation following agreement by the Breastfeeding Link Nurses, Infant Feeding Adviser and The Joint Breastfeeding Initiative.

As a result of the development of a NHS Lothian Breastfeeding Policy, the current Draft Policy for Lothian Primary Care Trust will be set aside at this time.

For further information regarding Breastfeeding Initiative and development please contact your local Breastfeeding Link Nurse.

Hall 4

The Child Health Support Group held a National Hall 4 Conference, on February 13th 2003 at Murrayfield Stadium.

The aim of this conference was to gain a consensus view on a National basis with
regard to progressing Hall 4 within Scotland. It is anticipated that once this view has been formed we will be able to progress some work in assessing and mapping developments, relating to Hall 4 across Lothian Primary Care Trust and NHS Lothian.

Practice Development Nurse (Community)
The post of Practice Development Nurse (Community) has been advertised and interviews have taken place.

We would like to thank Mairi McMillan for her contribution while seconded into the post, based at Allander House and her contribution to community nursing training and development.

The Practice Development Nurse post will provide a focal point for community nurse training, development and update within the Trust.

In addition to this role, the individual will undertake the responsibility for allocation of pre-registration nursing students and the co-ordination of the student nurse-training programme.

It is anticipated that this will help consolidate the training and development of current community staff, as well as our contribution to supporting student nurses, ensuring they are fit for practice and suitable for appointment to community posts in the future.

Health Visiting Job Description

The Health Visiting Job Description has been revised and updated in line with the NMC’s current competencies for Health Visiting.

The Lothian Public Health Reference Group requested that the job description be revised to take into account the changes in development within Public Health Nursing, resultant from the publication of Nursing for Health.

The job description is in Draft form and you will receive a consultation copy in the near future.

We have attempted to update the job description to reflect the trends and changes in practice, as well as the changes in training and requirements for the post at present.

Comments regarding the job description should be submitted to Karen Thorburn by the set date.

Health Visiting Service Review

September 2001 saw the initial Health Visiting Review being carried out through data collection.

As set out in that Review, subsequent Review to map development and change would be carried out on a bi-annual basis.

The planning for such projects take some time to develop, therefore work will commence in the near future to set out the questions and process for the Service Review, which will be undertaken in September 2003, if anyone has any ideas on what they feel would be a positive contribution to make regarding the Service Review, please feel free to contact Karen Thorburn.

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

The Screeners have been appointed and will undertake training with a view to commencing Universal Newborn Hearing Screening in April 2003.

Once this has commenced, discussions will take place regarding the phasing out of the Universal Distraction Test at 7-8 months, and what may be appropriate to have in its place to ensure that conductive hearing is detected appropriately.

Your Hearing & Vision Link Nurses are the key contacts regarding this and will be updated, as information becomes available.
Cardiac Rehabilitation Re-design Project

The current phase of the Project, now nearing an end with funding ceasing in March 2003.

The recommendations of the Project will have an impact on current Heart Manual Facilitators in that they will be required to undertake an additional home visit in the first instance.

Some work is being carried out to map and cost the impact of this development, in order to inform staff and managers appropriately.

Dr Iain Todd is leading on this piece of work and the Heart Manual Facilitators are closely involved.

The recommendations from the Cardiac Rehabilitation Re-Design Project, are just recommendations and have not been agreed and approved across NHS Lothian at this time.

It is anticipated that further work will be required to look at implementing the recommendations and this would require funding.

Your local Heart Manual Facilitators will be keeping in close contact with Dr Iain Todd and will be able to provide you with further information regarding the development of rehabilitation services in Primary Care.

Organisational Review

You maybe aware, that following Gail Trotter's report on integrated teams, that she subsequently carried out a Review of the Organisational support to nurses in the community.

This report made recommendations and a group chaired by Craig Beveridge has been carrying out a piece of work to establish firm recommendations regarding the structure and support to community nurses within LHCC’s.

To date this Report has been discussed at the HR Strategy Group, it is a confidential document and has not been circulated widely, however following agreement within the HR Strategy Group and the Senior Management Team a wide consultation process will be undertaken.

It is important if you have views regarding the organisational structure for support to community nurses that you participate fully within the consultation when invited to do so.

NMC Consultation

Further to the Consultation with regard to having three parts of the NMC register, the third part being Public Health Practitioners, an article in the Community Practitioner magazine, February 2003, Volume 76, Number 2, Page 39, outlines the outcome of the Consultation.

This article indicates that 80% of respondents to the NMC register consultation favoured three parts to the register.

The article states that 1,617 individuals had responded and 392 organisations, which had voted in favour of a third section.

It states that the title of Health Visitor has been protected and that Health Visitors will form a significant component of the third part of the register.

The article also makes note of the issues relating to direct entry into the proposed part three of the register.

The CPHVA have indicated that they are open-minded about the possibility of future direct entry to the third part of the register, however states that the issue would require explantation in far greater detail and that any proposals should result in a pilot following extensive consultation.

Please note that the differences in terms of Public Health Nursing and Public Health Practitioners in Scotland were noted by NHS Lothian, Lothian Primary Care Trust, individuals, practitioners and management to the NMC within this Consultation.
If the NMC continues along the route of part three of the register being named Public Health Practitioners, the implications for the Public Health Practitioner posts within Scotland will require some work.

HEBS Research

The Health Education Board for Scotland have commissioned Scott Porter Research and Marketing to conduct some research with the overall aim of identifying exactly what issues should be included as part of a new Toddler resource for patients.

As part of this research Scott Porter will be sending out self-completion questionnaires to all Health Visitors in Lothian NHS Board. We would like to encourage all the Health Visitors in Lothian to take the time to complete these questionnaires, as your opinions form an important part of this research project.

Editorial

If you have any items you would like to include in the next Newsletter please send them to Karen Thorburn or Margaret Henderson at Stevenson House before the

1st May 2003.

Please note Karen Thorburn will be on Annual Leave from the 17th March 2003 till 25th March 2003. Anything URGENT please contact Office on 0131 537 8571.