



Consultation Response

The Scottish Independent Hospitals Association (SIHA) response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Mental Health Strategy for Scotland 2011-2015

Introduction

The Scottish Independent Hospitals Association (SIHA) is a representative Association of all independent mental health and acute medical/surgical hospitals in Scotland. SIHA promotes the highest standards in independent healthcare and strives to influence the policy debate on the future of healthcare in Scotland.

SIHA agree with the Scottish Government's statement that, "*services, delivered by the NHS, local authorities, the third and private sectors, need to support and enable people to keep well and take responsibility for their mental health.*"

SIHA welcomes that this consultation, "*signals [the Scottish government's] intention to take forward Scotland's mental health policy in a more joined-up and systematic way.*" SIHA is also pleased to note that these proposals build on the partnership working approach of the *Quality Strategy* - with service users as well as service providers – and including local authorities and the third sector.

All SIHA members have a commitment to quality assurance as a key part of the delivery of safe and effective services to patients. The independent mental health sector in Scotland is innovative and flexible, delivering person centred care and emphasising staff development.

SIHA providers are submitting individual responses to this consultation document and are able to make an important contribution to issues raised around:

- improving access to specialist CAMHS;
- the support needed to put integrated care pathways into practice;
- how to continue to develop service user involvement in service design and delivery and in the care provided;
- the tools needed to support service users, families, carers and staff to achieve mutually beneficial partnerships;
- supporting families and carers to participate meaningfully in care and treatment; and
- access to therapy.

SIHA recently published its Credentials 2011 document, profiling the independent healthcare sector across Scotland.

The following statistics demonstrate the size of the sector and its ability to contribute towards the Scottish Government's plans for an effective mental health system:

- The Scottish independent mental healthcare sector provided 36,500 patient bed days in 2010/11.
- Of the 36,500 bed days, more than 19,000 were NHS patient bed days.
- The sector provides 229 mental health beds.
- Complaints in the mental healthcare sector represented just 0.07 per cent of patient days.

For a full list of SIHA members, please see:

<http://www.independenthealthcare.org.uk/index.php?/scotland/scotland.html>

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