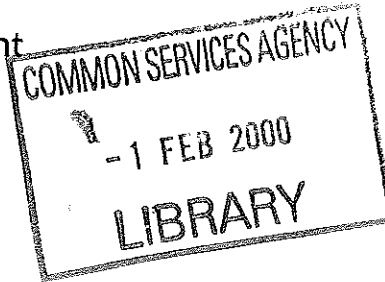




Health Department



Dear Colleague

**PROTECTING CHILDREN – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:
GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN SCOTLAND**

Summary

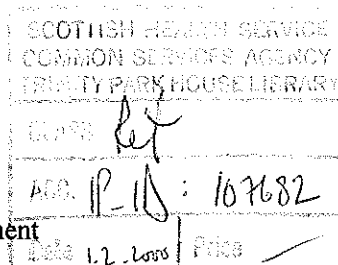
1. The primary guidance 'Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Inter-Agency Co-operation' was published in 1998. This new guidance for Scottish health personnel – 'Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility: Guidance for Health Professionals in Scotland' has been prepared by an expert Working Group drawn from across Scotland. The Working Group has endeavoured to make the guidance comprehensive, and it therefore addresses Health Board and Trust specifications, as well as the role and responsibilities of individual health care professionals.

Action

2. The report is intended primarily for health professionals, and aims to provide comprehensive and user-friendly information for those who may very rarely have contact with an abused child or children and their families. It is also aimed at staff who have had more experience or a managerial role, and highlights the need for child protection training to be available for all staff within the health sector.
3. This is one of two new national guidance documents being prepared by the Scottish Executive and Child Protection Agencies to clarify and restate the roles and responsibilities of individual professions working with children and is in line with the primary guidance. The second national guidance document, being prepared by the Education Department, is about to be commissioned.
4. Copies of this guidance should be supplied to all staff directly involved in the care of children and it should be made available to all NHS staff. Primary Care Trusts are asked to circulate the report to all General Practices in their area. Bulk supplies will be supplied for that purpose.
5. This MEL is available on the SHOW Website:
<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk>.

Yours sincerely

DR KEVIN WOODS
Director of Strategy and Performance Management



NHS Management Executive
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

31st January 2000

Addressees

For action:

- General Managers, Health Boards
- Chief Executives, NHS Trusts
- Nurse Directors, NHS Trusts
- General Manager, State Hospital
- GP Practices
- Professional Organisations – see Annex

For information:

- Medical Directors, NHS Trusts
- General Manager, CSA

Enquiries to:

Jean Swaffield
Directorate of Nursing
NHS Management Executive
Room G.E.18
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2310
Fax: 0131-244 2853
Email: jean.swaffield@scotland.gov.uk

Dr Ian Bashford
Senior Medical Officer
Women's and Children's Services
NHS Management Executive
Room 224
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2289
Fax: 0131-244 2069
Email: ian.bashford@scotland.gov.uk

Further requests for copies to:

John Wilson Tel: 0131 244 2346
Fax: 0131 244 2989
Email: john.wilson@scotland.gov.uk

**PROTECTING CHILDREN – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:
GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN SCOTLAND**

Professional bodies/other organisations to whom this letter and guidance have been sent are:

- Academic Heads of Nursing
- British Medical Association
- Community & District Nursing Association
- Deans of Dental Schools
- Deans of Postgraduate Medical Education
- Directors of Public Health
- Health Education Board for Scotland
- Independent Hospital Senior Nurses Group
- Local Health Councils
- National Board for Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting for Scotland
- National Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting Advisory Committee
- Royal College of General Practitioners, Scottish Council
- Royal College of Midwives Scottish Board
- Royal College of Nursing Scottish Board
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Scottish Executive
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Scottish Committee
- Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow
- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Scottish Association of Health Councils
- Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health
- Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical & Dental Education
- Scottish Health Visitors' Association
- Scottish Medical & Dental Defence Unit
- Scottish Neonatal Nurses' Group