

Psychiatric RESidential care Communities: Upgrading and Enhancing skills and competences for member of staff professional qualification”

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RESEARCH AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

NATIONAL REPORT FOR SCOTLAND – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUTHOR: GAMH

This report outlines the current mental health system in Scotland. It includes an historical background, showing developments leading to the beginning of community care in the 1980s. It refers to significant legislation, including the recent Mental Health (Care & Treatment) Act 2003 which was implemented in October 2005.

The report details policy designed to assist staff in health, social work and housing agencies to develop joint approaches to planning, commissioning and provisioning of integrated mental health services, such as “A Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland”, and looks at the funding allocated to assist with this.

It highlights the diversity of care providers in Scotland, across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, and outlines the roles of different workers within those agencies. It also acknowledges the significant amount of care provided by informal carers.

The report gives an overview of the education and training available to staff in the mental health field. It outlines both professional and vocational qualifications and the bodies responsible for provision of this education and training.

It shows that since the closure of large institutions in Scotland in the 1990s, many people have exceeded expectations of their ability to live fulfilled lives in the community. Innovative services have developed in line with these changes, and there has been increased focus on the inclusion of marginalised groups, and on multi-disciplinary and partnership working.

The report also looks at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the Scottish context. This includes recognising the new regulatory structures raising standards and competence as a strength, and the “mixed market” across the voluntary, public and private sector as an opportunity.

Overall, the report shows that, in Scotland, community based mental health services are delivered by medical/nursing staff, social work staff or social care staff. As medical, nursing and social work staff have more clearly defined professional qualifications, the focus of this report is on the training and provision of social care staff, who until recently lacked clearly defined professional qualifications. The report mainly concentrates on services in Glasgow, although reference is also made to a wider Scottish context, and at times a UK context.