



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

29th January 1999

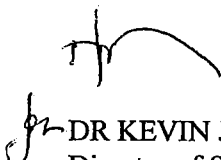
Dear Colleague

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PRIMARY CARE: PUTTING PARTNERSHIPS INTO PRACTICE

1. Attached with this circular is a copy of a study undertaken by the Scottish Consumer Council, in conjunction with the Scottish Association of Health Councils, on behalf of this Department.
2. The study is the first part of a programme of work designed to encourage the involvement of the public in decisions about the planning and delivery of primary care services in Scotland. The report sets out the principles for encouraging greater patient and public involvement. It provides examples of initiatives which have involved the public at Health Board, primary care and community levels with the aim of stimulating local thinking about ways of involving patients and the local community in decisions about the planning and delivery of primary care services.
3. Further work is underway to develop a Guide for use in establishing and developing public involvement strategies. The Guide should be published in Spring 1999.
4. Health Board General Managers and Trust Chief Executives are asked to:
 - bring this report to the attention of staff working with Primary Care providers; and
 - take all necessary action to ensure that public involvement is given due prominence in their work.

GP practices are also asked to apply the principles the report identifies in their work and in the work of proposed local health care co-operatives.

Yours sincerely


DR KEVIN J WOODS
Director of Strategy and Performance

Addressees

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