



Dear Colleague

**INITIATIVE TO COMMEMORATE THE MEMORY OF  
DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

**Summary**

1. This MEL provides details of additional educational provision that is to be put in place to enable registered paediatric nurses to undertake community children's nursing courses and other support education. It seeks expressions of interest and nominations of registered paediatric nurses to undergo training due to commence in September 1999.

**Background**

2. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee reported in June 1998. One of the proposals made by the Committee was that her life and work should be commemorated by an initiative that supports children with life threatening or life limiting illnesses and their families. The philosophy behind the proposals is to facilitate and co-ordinate a family-focused holistic package of care for children with life threatening or life limiting diseases. The key aims of the initiative will be:

- to support children with life threatening or life limiting illnesses and their families;
- provide a high quality, seamless service, which allows the children and their families autonomy, choice and respect;
- involve other agencies and service providers, drawing on other professionals and voluntary support as necessary;
- bring together different services and support in order to meet the physical, emotional, social, educational and spiritual needs of the children and their families.

8th March 1999

**Addressees**

For action:  
General Managers,  
Health Boards

Chief Executives,  
NHS Trusts

For information:  
Executive Director,  
SCPMDE

Director,  
SAHC

Health Board Directors of Nursing

Executive Nurse Directors of  
NHS Trusts in Scotland

National Board for Nursing,  
Midwifery and Health Visiting in  
Scotland

National Nursing, Midwifery and  
Health Visiting Advisory Committee

Practice Nurse Association

Royal College of Nursing

Royal College of Paediatrics and  
Child Health

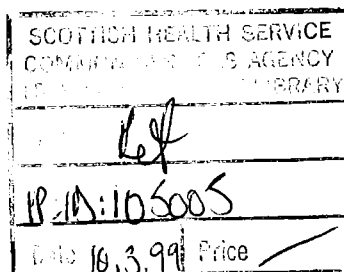
Community and District Nursing  
Association

**Enquiries to:**

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Nursing Officer  
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Fax: 0131-244 2853

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3. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has made available £2m across the UK for each of the 3 years from 1 April 1999. In England, the intention is to set up Diana Community Children's Nursing Teams. In Scotland, most of the funding (£209,000 in each of the 3 years) will be used to provide suitable training for paediatric nurses in order to have in place the key elements for the care and support of children with life threatening diseases within the community services. Details needed for the expressions of interest are set out in **Annex A**. We will expect a commitment from Health Boards to take forward the provision of services for these children. Further details are set out in **Annex B**.

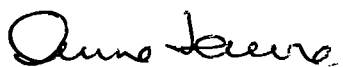
4. Discussions are currently taking place concerning available courses for Community Children's Nurses and the content, which will begin in September 1999. This timetable will mean full-time nurses completing training in June 2000 and other part-time nurses in 2001. Other appropriate courses may also be accessed linked to assessed local service needs.

#### **Action**


5. Health Board General Managers and NHS Trust Chief Executives are invited to nominate by 16 April 1999 registered paediatric nurses to undergo the community children's nurses training and other appropriate training according to the assessed needs within local services with a view to that training beginning in September 1999. Expressions of interest should include a brief description of the specialist services that already exist or are envisaged for the future.

6. This MEL is available on The Scottish Office web site:  
<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/dtc>.

Yours sincerely



MISS A JARVIE  
Chief Nursing Officer



KEVIN J WOODS  
Director of Strategy & Performance Management

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR INITIATIVE  
COMMEMORATING THE MEMORY OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES**

**Aim**

1. The overall aim of the initiative to commemorate the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales centres on services for children in the community in order to maintain or improve the quality of life for children with life limiting or life threatening diseases and their families.

**Objective**

2. The objective will be to improve the co-ordination, with continuity over time, between all agencies and disciplines involved in the care and support of children with life limiting and life threatening illnesses.

3. In considering nominations of paediatric nurses for training, Health Boards and NHS Trusts in collaboration with other Health Boards and in line with the philosophy of "managed clinical networks" should explore how this initiative can be taken forward either in geographical areas or developing them in conjunction with current community nursing services.

**Expressions of Interest**

4. Expressions of interest should include:

- A brief description of the geographical area covered and, where appropriate, an agreement to collaborate between all stakeholders should be provided. Nurses undertaking training will be expected to develop a detailed needs assessment for their area for children with life limiting or life threatening diseases based on the outline scheme, in conjunction with their Health Board(s) and in line with the Health Improvement Programme and managed clinical networks, by December 2000, if the proposal is accepted.
- A commitment from Primary Care Trusts, Acute Trusts, if appropriate, and Health Boards to develop or enhance services for children with life limiting and life threatening diseases following nurse training.
- Nominations for up to 2 paediatric nurses from a geographical area. These should be submitted on the basis that these nurses will either develop the service or contribute "hands-on" skills for children with life limiting and life threatening diseases.
- Detailed costs of associated salary, travel, accommodation and other appropriate costs.

## **Training**

5. Paediatric nurses will be able to undertake appropriate training as community children's nurses. Alternatively, some nurses may require other appropriate training/experience locally, according to assessed service needs to enable them to fulfil the requirements of the proposals submitted by Health Boards, based on a brief outline of the proposed service. Those paediatric nurses put forward by the Health Board to undertake the community children's nurses course will be subject to the requirements of the course for admission and interview by the College. Community Children's Nursing applicants must have an entry on either Parts 8 or 15 of the register and normally have completed a period of professional practice. Applicants normally have a minimum of 2 years post registration experience.

## **Timetable**

6. Expressions of interest and outline proposals should be submitted by **16 April 1999**. Successful candidates will be notified by **14 May 1999** to enable training to begin in September 1999.

7. Further, more detailed information is available if required from Mrs Jean Swaffield, Nursing Officer, Scottish Office Department of Health (Contact No: 0131 244 2310).

**WAY FORWARD**

1. The Chief Nursing Officer intends to establish a multi-agency Focus Group to include Health Boards, NHS Trusts, Social Work representatives and the voluntary sector to seek views on how a service for children with life threatening diseases can best be developed within/across Health Board(s).

2. The aim will be to ensure that the service fits in with robust service plans; that it is incorporated into Health Improvement Programmes using a managed clinical network approach and that it focuses on inter-agency working where multi-agency teams already exist or where multi-agency teams might be set up.