



PRESS RELEASE
20 January 2005

Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act delayed

Children in Scotland, the national agency for all those working for children and their families, today responded to the announcement to delay implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

A spokesperson for Children in Scotland said:

“Children in Scotland welcomed the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act, particularly the section that places a duty on health boards to provide age-appropriate services, and is disappointed to learn that its implementation will be delayed until October 2005. Under the original implementation schedule, the date from which no person under the age of 18 should be treated in an adult ward was April 2005.

“The Child Health Support Group’s recent report *Psychiatric inpatient services for children and young people in Scotland: a way forward* highlighted the fact that existing psychiatric inpatient services for young people are insufficient to meet the demands of the new legislation.

“Children in Scotland therefore urges the Scottish Executive to use the eight months between now and October 2005 to consider carefully the recommendations made in the report to improve provision.

“In particular, Children in Scotland would like the Scottish Executive to accept the offer from David Pigott, Chair of the West of Scotland Regional Planning Group, to establish and lead an inter-regional planning group that will look at how regions can work together to ensure the recommendations in the report are implemented.”