

**From:** McDevitt Marie (5F7) Stockport PCT [Marie.McDevitt@stockport-pct.nhs.uk]

**Sent:** mardi 30 mai 2006 14:28

**To:** SANCO MENTAL HEALTH

**Subject:** Mental Health Green Paper

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the development of a strategy on mental health and would like to offer some comments on the Green Paper. I think it should start with and have an adequate section on mental health needs assessment, which should be a starting point. Also the link between alcohol and mental health should be emphasised. Alcohol may be involved in at least 1 in 4 suicides, possibly more for men. The link between alcohol drunk during pregnancy and subsequent low level behavioural and mental health problems in children up to and including the foetal alcohol syndrome should merit consideration for inclusion. What is the impact of more women working on the mental health of their children, some of the research studies are contradictory. I would also include in the needs assessment some data on trends i.e. is the mental health of the EU or parts of it getting better or worse? What is happening to teenage mental health for instance?

I hope you find these comments helpful,

Best wishes,

Dr Marie McDevitt

Specialist in Public Health

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