The Trust’s first nurse prescribing conference, held on the 17\textsuperscript{th} September in Bedford, proved very successful. Attended by 71 delegates from London, Cheltenham, Bedford and Luton, Dr Ashok Patel (Consultant Psychiatrist), a great supporter of nurse prescribing in mental health who has successfully supervised two candidates for the Trust, opened the conference.

Ronnie Lopez, a Barrister and former community psychiatric nurse, talked about the legal aspects of nurse prescribing, following which Neil Brimblecombe, from the Department of Health and NIMHE, provided the national perspective on nurse prescribing, outlining how the government are supporting and advocating this as a way forward in nursing.

There were four well-attended and lively workshops: John Butler facilitated a workshop on the concordance skills approach; Peter Livingstone facilitated a session on supplementary prescribing; Alison Bass discussed the use of advanced directives (Bass 2004); and, Debbie Buck considered issues relating to carers’ and service users’...
role was in evidence, there was limited consistency of the approach across the Service. The findings of the Investigation was the driver for this piece of work to be actioned.

The Process
In order for this piece of work to move forward, it was agreed that the members of the working group exploring the role and responsibilities of the key-worker needed to have an in-depth understanding of what was required in practice. There had been some examples of good practice identified around the service of key-worker activity, and it was agreed that these key-workers would be excellent role models for their peers.

Letters were sent to identified managers across the Services, which included Community Homes, In-Patient Areas and Community Nursing, requesting that the manager nominate member/s of the team to participate in the working group, to explore the role and responsibilities of the key-worker.

The nominees were invited to attend an initial meeting, held in March 2004, and agreed to become members of the working group. The purpose of the initial meeting was to plan how this piece of work would be taken forward. At this initial meeting it was agreed that the group would identify the role and responsibilities of the key-worker, develop a training pack and then members of the group would deliver the training to teams in individual practice areas across the Service.

The group met again in April 2004 to agree the role and responsibilities of the key-worker. This was completed with two main themes running throughout the document. Firstly, the process was person centred, with the person being central in deciding the support they needed and desired and the service that would be delivered. Secondly, the key-worker was very much a team member and could not fulfil their role in isolation, in ensuring that the person had all their needs and desires met. The training pack was also designed at this meeting.

In May 2004, the group met again to agree the training pack. This was used as a rehearsal, to agree the running order of the training session.

The training pack was piloted in June 2004 during the Service Learning Disability Award Framework (LDAF) Induction. Feedback from the candidates was very positive and it was agreed that the training pack was ready to be delivered to teams in individual areas throughout the Service.

Members of the group arranged to deliver the training in individual areas to the team members as a group. This was to ensure that each member of the team had an understanding of the role and responsibilities of the key-worker, and therefore key-workers would be supported to fulfil their role in a consistent manner across the Service.

Expected Outcome
All people who have a learning disability using the Services, who have an identified key-worker, will have an equitable experience.