



## **National Steering Group for Specialist Children's Services**

### **Paediatric Telemedicine**

#### **Executive Summary**

Following on from the successful Government funded Paediatric Telemedicine Project, telemedicine is playing an increasing role in the healthcare of children and young people in Scotland.

The more recent incorporation of the Paediatric Telemedicine Service into the work of the Scottish Centre for Telehealth has provided a stable basis for the further development of the service.

Within the context of the geography and demography of Scotland, and the distribution of children's specialist services, telemedicine has been shown to support: remote diagnosis and treatment; prevent unnecessary patient transfers; enable timely and safe transfer when required and enhance communication with parents.

Networking is seen as a key element of the delivery of specialist children's services. Telemedicine is already supporting the activities of several existing clinical networks and has the capacity to facilitate significant further progress in this area.

Education plays a vital role in developing staff and enabling the provision of high quality and equitable services. Telemedicine is increasingly being used to share educational opportunities across Scotland's child health services including those in more remote settings.

Using a four tiered service model based on the *Emergency Care Framework* clear proposals have been developed regarding the infrastructure required to provide an effective telemedicine network between all the sites delivering specialist children's services.

The successful expansion of paediatric telemedicine services will be dependent on the availability of effective national bridging services and technical support.

## Recommendations

	<b>Action</b>	<b>By when</b>
1.	The paediatric telemedicine service should be recognised as being an essential element of service delivery.	
2.	The service should be expanded in line with the four tier model proposed. This should be done in a way that ensures user-friendly services and wide multi-professional engagement.	2008-2010
3.	The potential contribution of telemedicine should be evaluated during the development of all new networks for specialist children's services.	2008
4.	Funding of 708k (total) over the next 3 years should be allocated to fully develop and consolidate a national paediatric telemedicine service.	2008-2010
5.	A long-term sustainable funding model for supporting and developing the service should be established.	2008-2009
6.	National bridging services should be established and should include the provision of technical support.	2008-2009