

Scotland Hosts First Ever Conference To Improve Understanding Of Suicide

The inaugural one-day conference of the Suicide Information Research and Evidence Network (SIREN) will take place in the inspiring Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh on Tuesday 3rd October 2006.

Opened by Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, and including presentations from leading suicidologists Professor Keith Hawton (University of Oxford), Professor Steve Platt (University of Edinburgh) and Dr Rory O'Connor (University of Stirling), the conference aims to further our understanding of suicide and suicidal behaviours, and importantly the implications for research and practice.

In addition to presentations by those mentioned above, there will be presentations from researchers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds who will share topical research and examples of promising practice in Scotland.

Jacki Gordon, National Information Manager for Choose Life and a member of the SIREN steering group said "Suicide is a major public health concern for Scotland, with around two people in Scotland taking their own life every day.

To address this, the Choose Life strategy calls for action across all groups in society – health, social care and other professionals, communities, voluntary and statutory agencies, local groups and individuals. This conference will look at how collectively we can reduce the risk of suicide and will be equally relevant to policy planners and practitioners, as well as researchers".

SIREN aims to increase understanding of suicide and its prevention through information sharing and networking, and ultimately to create a Scottish association for the study of suicide. SIREN is seed funded by Choose Life, the Scottish Executive's national strategy and action plan for preventing suicide.

To find out more about the conference and to register, visit www.chooselife.net, click on Research and Reviews / SIREN or via the link below:

<http://www.chooselife.net/web/site/ResearchandReviews/SIRENEvents.asp>

Alternatively, please contact Janine Bowie at the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health on 0131 555 5959.