

Making it Work2!

International Networking for Rural Health

March 2005



Making it Work2

*International Networking for Rural Health
Supporting Healthy Rural Communities*

International Conference

21-23 September 2005

Rica Ishavshotell, Tromsø, Norway

This international conference is a second joint venture between the northern boards of NHS Scotland and the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord), with the support of the Norwegian Directorate of Health and Social Welfare.

The conference will seek to address the question of what core services should be provided in rural communities and how these can be best delivered. The conference will also seek to address the fundamental issue of the changing demographic profile of rural communities and how they can be supported and empowered to be healthier communities as an integral part of the global community.

Key themes for this conference will be:

- Chronic Disease Management
- Maternity Services
- Mental Health
- Health improvement/illness prevention

The importance of education, user involvement and networking, the use of telemedicine and issues of ethical decision making are all integral to the themes and the conference will consider the establishment of an International Rural Health Network.

Background

A mile-stone conference was held in Scotland in September 2003 to address problems of recruitment and retention and the long-term sustainability of health services in remote communities, and indeed the sustainability of the communities themselves. This 2nd international conference on health in remote and rural areas will build on the success of the St Andrew's conference. Previous delegates have been involved in the aims and design of the next conference and the project is again jointly funded by the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority – Helse Nord and the northern NHS boards who share geographical similarities and healthcare challenges.

We want this conference to have some tangible outcomes, including a post conference report with recommendations. There is a strong sense of the value of networking and exploring solutions on a global level.

www.helse-nord.no/makingitwork

Conference Aims

- *To explore how the patient journey varies in different countries.*
- *To share common experiences and best practice*
- *To stimulate and develop new models of planning*
- *To identify core services in remote and rural areas*
- *To address the changing demography of rural areas*
- *To stimulate collaboration between agencies to support healthier communities*
- *To develop tangible outcomes, such as joint international projects and educational networks*
- *To publish conclusions and recommendations from the conference for policy development*
- *To build a multi-disciplinary international rural health network*

Who should attend?

Chief Executives and Senior Managers in Health, Rural Affairs, Education, Local Authorities, Nursing and AHP Professional Bodies and Colleges, Policy Developers, Strategic and Service Planners, Medical Quality and Standard Setters, Rural clinicians and professionals, Community and Patient Bodies. Making it Work2 2005 is **the** conference for professionals working in remote and rural communities.

Speakers

An impressive line-up of experts, all eminent in their field, have agreed to speak at the conference to share their experience and vision. Workshops will be highly interactive and stimulating. The names of all speakers will be advertised in the full program. See our website www.helse-nord.no/makingitwork for the latest information.

The Venue

Located 10 minutes from Tromsø Airport, The Rica Ishavshotel, overlooks Tromsø Harbour and the Ishavs Cathedral. The venue has a Conference Centre and Ballroom for 400 people and offers superb accommodation. The resort is situated in the middle of the City Centre with easy access to all main attractions. Tromsø is known as the "Paris of the North" and it is only a 2 hour flight from Oslo. Book early to get best prices for flights.

Booking

The full delegate package is only an amazing £499 if you book early. (£549 after 16 May.)
Day delegate only rates available (£299).

Visit our website for full details of how to book www.helse-nord.no/makingitwork or send an email entitled "**MIW2 BOOKING FORM**" to makingitwork@helse-nord.no
Early Booking is necessary to ensure a place!

Call for Abstracts

Our conference will follow a "virtual" community as a theme; examining case studies, which illustrate the management of chronic diseases, mental health and health promotion/illness prevention. This will provide an opportunity to compare how our different countries address these issues - highlighting best practice and what doesn't work well. By using a virtual community we can build in the connections of demographic, social and economic factors which also have an impact on health and health planning and demonstrate the need for collaboration and responsibility between health organisations and local government (social, economic and education) - and most importantly, build in the patient experience.

Abstracts are invited supporting the conference themes. Abstracts will be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee, chaired by Professor Niels Bentzen, Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine and General Practice, Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Chair Wonca International Classification Committee. Abstracts submissions must be sent **using the Abstract template which can be found on our website**. They should be emailed to: makingitwork@helse-nord.no
For further details on how to submit papers and notes of interest or for require booking information please contact: Ruth Cleland, NHS Highland at 0044 1463 704781
or Trude Grønland, Helse Nord RHF at 0047 75 51 29 13