

## Overview and rationale

Mental health nurses are the largest profession working in mental health. They are at the forefront of improving the quality of mental health services, including early intervention in psychosis and improved access to psychological therapies. The CNO Review of mental health nursing (2006) identified the importance of improving the outcomes and experiences of service users. In order to do so it is essential to strengthen and develop mental health nursing and its contribution to public mental health.

The mental health strategy *No health without mental health*, identifies public mental health as a national priority along with the intention to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the population.

Enhanced partnership working will support the delivery of the strategy. A partnership approach across the lifespan, involving primary care, child health, maternity services, school nursing, secondary care and specialist mental health nursing is essential. The model builds on established joint working to enhance and extend partnership working amongst nurses to improve mental health outcomes. It includes the 6Cs and the six action areas that mental health nurses need to address to deliver high quality, compassionate care and improve health and care outcomes.

## Making this happen for all mental health care nurses need to take the lead in the developing the culture of compassionate care 6 Action areas:

