

# DEALING WITH PSYCHOSIS IN GENERAL PRACTICE



DETECT have undertaken a series of evaluations of the needs and views of General Practitioners who are dealing with patients with psychosis through their routine clinical work. Prior to the establishment of DETECT in February 2006, a national postal survey was conducted to establish the views of GPs regarding the detection of people with psychosis in general practice. Almost all respondents reported seeing at least one case of first episode psychosis annually. GPs highlighted a need for more specific information about identifying psychosis, more rapid access to services and closer liaison with secondary services.

Since the inception of DETECT, we have attempted to incorporate these recommendations in planning services for people with first episode psychosis. Each GP within the catchment area has been mailed an information pack and clinicians have provided information to GPs through CME sessions where possible. We also endeavour to see clients within 72 hours of receipt of referral and provide prompt feedback to GPs on completion of the initial assessment. An evaluation of these aspects of the service by surveying GPs in the area revealed that overall, the service provided by DETECT has been welcome by local GPs.

#### References:

1. Gavin B, Cullen W, O'Donoghue B et al. (2006) First episode schizophrenia in general practice. *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 23: 6–9.
2. Renwick, L., Gavin, B., McGlade, N. et al. (2008). Early intervention for psychosis service: Views from primary care. *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*, 2 (4): 285-290.