

The North of Scotland Public Health Network (NoSPHN) is a collaboration between NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles. The role of NoSPHN is to promote improvements in health and contribute to reducing health inequalities across the North of Scotland. To achieve this, those involved work collaboratively, where this adds value, to plan and deliver equitable, high quality and effective Public Health services and activities for the benefit of the population of the North of Scotland.

### ***NoSPHN Steering Group***

The NoSPHN Steering Group oversees the development and delivery of the NoSPHN annual workplan and ensures appropriate governance arrangements are in place. The Lead (Chair) of NoSPHN is rotated every 2 years between the Directors of Public Health (DsPH) of each of the North NHS Boards.

Current membership includes:

Margaret Somerville – NoSPHN Lead and DPH, NHS Highland  
 Sarah Taylor – DPH, NHS Shetland  
 Lewis Ritchie – DPH, NHS Grampian / Susan Webb, Deputy DPH, NHS Grampian  
 Louise Wilson – DPH, NHS Orkney  
 Martin Malcolm – NHS Western Isles  
 Phil Mackie – Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN)  
 NHS Health Scotland representatives (rotates)  
 Peter Gent, Interim Director of Planning NoS Planning Group  
 Pip Farman - Public Health Specialist / NoSPHN Co-ordinator

Representatives or Leads of the NoSPHN workstreams also sit on or may attend meetings:

- NoSPG Cardiac Services Network - Elaine Garman (NHS)
- Health Intelligence Sub Group - Jillian Evans (NHS), Paddy Luo-Hopkins (NHS)
- Health Improvement Collaborative (rotated between members)
- Medicines Management Collaborative – Sharon Pfleger (NHS)
- Oral Health and Dentistry Network - Ray Watkins (NHS)
- NOSCAN – William Moore (NHS)

Other representatives attend meetings in relation to specific pieces of work. The Group meets every 2 months and all meetings are conducted with members joining by videoconference from sites across the North of Scotland.

### ***Who does the NoSPHN report to?***

NoSPHN is accountable through the DsPH to the Chief Executives of each of the North of Scotland Boards locally and through the North of Scotland Planning Group (NoSPG).

### ***How can I get involved in NoSPHN?***

- Talk to your manager or one of the NoSPHN Steering Group to determine work in which you might be involved. North DsPH regularly receive requests for staff to come forward for pieces of work / to contribute to discussions.
- Identify work which might be progressed across the North – are you part of a group or progressing work which you think might benefit from a regional Public Health approach? If so please let your manager know, or contact Pip Farman (see contacts below).

### ***For more information or to discuss NoSPHN and its work contact:***

Dr Margaret Somerville NoSPHN Lead and Director of Public Health and Health Policy  
 NHS Highland, Assynt House, Beechwood Park  
 Inverness IV2 3BW Tel: (01463) 704926  
[margaret.somerville@nhs.net](mailto:margaret.somerville@nhs.net)

Pip Farman, Public Health Specialist / NoSPHN Co-ordinator  
 NHS Highland, Assynt House, Beechwood Park  
 Inverness, IV2 3BW Tel: (01463) 704789  
[pip.farman@nhs.net](mailto:pip.farman@nhs.net)

### ***How can I access more information on NoSPHN?***

Please visit our website for further details at [www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk)

Agendas, minutes and documents of the NoSPHN Steering Group meetings are made available to download from the website. Current events and completed work are also posted on the site. If you have any suggestions for other information you would like to see on the website please contact Pip Farman or Alex Medcalf [alex.medcalf@nhs.net](mailto:alex.medcalf@nhs.net)

### ***Ideas and priorities for the NoSPHN work programme for 2013/14?***

Examples of the work that NoSPHN has been conducting are highlighted on the following pages. NoSPHN will continue to progress with developments from the 2012/13 workplan and develop new requests for work as appropriate. We would welcome feedback from colleagues on what might be priorities for 2013/14; this may be for example pieces of work or ideas for CPD. Please get in touch.

***North of Scotland Public Health Network (NoSPHN) – activities and workplan. The NoSPHN workplan is developed and agreed annually – proposals for further work are always welcome. As part of its workplan NoSPHN supports NoSPG in agreed pieces of work and also develops regional approaches to Public Health services, activities and continuing education.***

***Examples of NoSPHN work over the last year have included:*** (reports are available on some of the work highlighted below and can be accessed via the NoSPHN website at [www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk) ).

### **Drug and Therapeutics**

Collaborative approaches to the NoS Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees (ADTCs) have been explored over the year including:

- Work to ensure that all Boards are compliant with the CEL 17 (2010) the 'Introduction and Availability of Newly Licensed Medicines in the NHS in Scotland' and has ensured that clear processes for accessing medicines are in place.
- Health economics training for the NoS ADTCs in collaboration with Glasgow University was held on the 14th and 21st March 2012 in particular to support colleagues involved in decisions about allocations of funds or individual patient treatment request decisions.

### **Child Health**

Ongoing support has been given to the development of a needs and evaluation based approach to the North of Scotland NDP Children's Specialist Service programme. NoSPHN was asked by NoSPG to develop a model to show how added benefit to patients would be demonstrated as a result of investment in Children's Specialist Services at a regional level (using a logic model approach). Early work focussed on the development and evaluation of the work. Public Health colleagues supported and advised on indicators and data to use as part of the evaluation and also the development of tools to gather feedback from patients and their families of the impact of service developments. A final evaluation report was submitted to NoSPG at the end of 2011 and is available on the NoSPG website [www.nospgh.nhsscotland.com](http://www.nospgh.nhsscotland.com). Work since has focussed on further developments within the NoSPG work programme and in particular applying the logic model approach to other programmes of work.

### **Horizon Scanning**

NoSPG asked the North of Scotland Public Network (NoSPHN) to identify the key factors that would have the biggest impact on the future provision of services across the North of Scotland. NoSPHN colleagues developed a picture of the future from national and international research through a literature review and by consulting with a range of stakeholders at local, regional and national levels.

The key message from the work was that we cannot continue to do what we have always done and in the way we have done it if we are to meet the challenges of the future. The work was presented to NoSPG in late 2011 and the work was well received and evaluated. Papers summarising the findings of the work, the event in 2011 and suggested next steps is available on the NoSPG website [www.nospgh.nhsscotland.com](http://www.nospgh.nhsscotland.com) and NoSPHN website [www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page\\_id=873](http://www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page_id=873). One message that appears to have had particular resonance

with colleagues is the concept of needing to approach changes within the NHS as like 'redesigning the plane whilst flying it'<sup>1</sup> whilst clearly ensuring we all know the destination to which we are headed. The findings from the event have continued to be discussed over the last year and NoSPHN has focussed its attention on progressing Public Health work emerging from the work including developing the concept of the 'Intelligent Region' and the development of, or improving access to supporting tools.

The concept of the '**Intelligent Region**' has been developed by Jillian Evans (NHSG), Susan Webb (NHSG), and Pip Farman (NoSPHN) and is based around the concept of the Intelligent Board<sup>2</sup> (developed through the Dr Foster Intelligence collaborative). It acknowledges that with a rapidly changing environment, those who are charged with governance of NHS organisations have an increased need for good quality, timely information to set strategy, monitor implementation of strategy and oversee operational delivery. At the crux of this approach is the aim of improving the accessibility of appropriate information for all and that information must be packaged appropriately and intelligently and might include for example a focus on agreed minimum data sets, a clear cycle of strategic and operational business and understanding of delegated authority and accountability. A tiered approach to information needs and management to support this has been proposed. This work is in development and we will be promoting opportunities to comment and debate the approach and potential impacts for regional and Board work. A NoSPG '**blue print**' for service development / review is also in development. The aim of the blue print is to ensure that appropriate, informed and 'intelligent' questions are asked at each stage of service review and development informed by a Public Health focus and some of the thinking emerging from the horizon scanning work.

A year on from the Horizon Scanning event, NoSPHN has also reviewed the initial work with colleagues with the aim of exploring and sharing the impacts and challenges of the work and lessons learned, particularly from a Public Health perspective (ie understanding of how best to support translation of Public Health work into action).

The review was conducted through questionnaire and interview – the overall response rate was 32% (24/76). 58% of respondents reported that they had used the work eg reference materials / concepts (42% of respondents had not used the work) and 83% of respondents indicated that the work had an impact (or influence) on them as individuals / organisations eg thinking/ decision making / practice (17% of respondents indicated that work had no impact on them). Respondents cited evidence of where the work was being used and/or had an impact.

The feedback and proposed improvements / further work suggest the need to keep the work going and:

- 'Make the work real' ie further translate concepts into practice and apply them
- Revisit / share the work more widely
- Develop further the Horizon Scanning methodologies (methods, terminology etc)
- Highlights a number of issues for both NoSPG and NoSPHN to reflect on if the work is to be further supported / progressed.

<sup>1</sup> [www.internationalfuturesforum.com/](http://www.internationalfuturesforum.com/)

<sup>2</sup> Intelligent Board February 2006 [www.drfoosterintelligence.co.uk/thought-leadership/intelligent-board/](http://www.drfoosterintelligence.co.uk/thought-leadership/intelligent-board/)

### **Other work ongoing / in development**

A number of other pieces of work are in progress / development, including:

- Reviewing NoS collaborative approaches to the outcomes of the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives Review
- Scoping new work emerging from the NoSPG work programmes
- Consideration of work to look at the impacts of low surgical volume and outcomes in relation to regional services (including assessing support to a Hepatobiliary Cancer Review Group)
- Collaborative approaches to regional Oral and Dental Public Health.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

NoSPHN has a role to support or organise continuing professional developments (CPD) events where there is an agreed North of Scotland need and to ensure NoS access to national events and training. Recent events include sharing the Horizon scanning programme (2011-2012), Health Economics Training for the NoS Area Drug and Therapeutics Collaborative (March 2012) and NHSHS Social Marketing training (March 2012).

In line with national drivers to support the development of asset based approaches for public health, NoSPHN also organised an event on the 27th March 2012 to support discussion and debate on the approach (a copy of the event report and all supporting papers is on the NoSPHN website at

[www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page\\_id=1125](http://www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page_id=1125) ).

CPD planning in progress at the moment includes support to ongoing asset based approaches work, developing the concept of the Intelligent Region, exploring the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) tools across the North and a workplace planning session to understand collective NoS Public Health workforce challenges and interests (details will appear on the NoSPHN website as they are developed

[www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page\\_id=15](http://www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk/?page_id=15) ).

### **Supporting Regional and National Working**

Public Health colleagues are nominated to sit on and advise NoSPG working groups e.g. NOSCAN, Oral Health and Dentistry and the Cardiac Networks. NoSPHN has continued to work with other national organisations to maximise engagement with and links to the North of Scotland including NHS Health Scotland, the Scottish Government and Scottish Public Health Network (with whom we now have a Memorandum of Collaboration).

NoSPHN also support where appropriate national working groups. One of the main foci of work is to ensure that the remote and rural aspects of national developments are recognised and addressed, for example work to develop a Health Impact Assessment for off-shore wind farm developments and responding on a NoS basis to national consultations and processes e.g. the National Health Protection Stocktake.

### **Quality improvement**

As part of its process for continuous quality improvement NoSPHN routinely reviews its activities with stakeholders. Over the last few years we have concluded a number of pieces of work which were individually and then collectively reviewed for lessons learned which has informed the further development of the scoping processes for new pieces of work for NoSPHN and improving guidelines for the delivery of NoSPHN work.