

North of Scotland Public Health Network (NoSPHN) – Report for NoSPG Annual report 2013/14

The North of Scotland Public Health Network (NoSPHN) is a collaboration between the Public Health Departments of NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles. Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Public Health for NHS Highland has led NoSPHN this year. The Lead role and network are supported by the Network Manager, Pip Farman a Public Health Specialist. The work of NoSPHN is guided by a Steering Group comprising the NoS Directors of Public Health, the NoSPG Director; representatives from regional working groups and programmes; and national bodies eg the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN).

NoSPHN supports The North of Scotland Planning Group (NoSPG) in agreed pieces of work to ensure that regional initiatives are informed by the best available evidence and identified population need and using a range of relevant tools so that we make the best possible decisions within the resources available for the people of the North of Scotland. NoSPHN also develops regional approaches to Public Health services, activities and continuing education (further details of this work are available on the NoSPHN website www.nospnh.scot.nhs.uk).

This year NoSPG / NoSPHN work has focussed on:

- Intelligent region developments – NoSPHN has worked with NoSPG testing the concept of the Intelligent Region which has a focus on maximising how NoSPG does its business and is informed by appropriate information. This has included developments sessions with NoSPG and Public Health colleagues across the North of Scotland and learning from similar work being progressed within NHS Grampian on the Intelligent Board. This work has culminated in the appointment of a Programme Manager, Kerry Russell who will be overseeing further NoSPG developments in line with the intelligent region.
- Chronic pain pathway review - following the release of the national consultation on Specialist Residential Chronic Pain Services in Scotland discussion at NoSPHN highlighted the need for a better understanding of local Tier 2 and 3 services for chronic pain in the context of the overall chronic pain care pathway and members agreed that there would be an added value in looking at this on a NoS basis. NoSPHN hosted a meeting on the 2nd December 2013 at which it was agreed there was no regional agenda to be developed but highlighted: opportunities for sharing local good practice; clarifying referral criteria for specialist services; ensuring there is read across of chronic back pain and access to spinal surgery pathways and local Board pathways and with standardised common referral criteria. These and a number of other issues were highlighted to the National Chronic Pain Service Improvement Steering Group for consideration nationally.
- Low Volumes, Outcomes and Sustainability project – the planned outcome for this work is to develop a resource which will focus on the challenges of low volume activities and will support understanding of and a consistent approach to agreeing where best to improve, secure and sustain services in the future in the NoS, for the benefit of NoS patients.

Two high level literature reviews have been completed by colleagues at Aberdeen University. NoS colleagues have been 'interviewed' with regard to previous low volume and outcomes based work and current issues to understand and capture learning from these (including the Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary and Oesophago-Gastric Service Review and the Endocrine Cancer Services review). Learning and observations are also being captured from the NoS Oncology Services review as it progresses. A meeting is planned to discuss further the

challenges of and potential NoS responses to low volume activity and its impacts. A number of other sustainability focussed projects are developing in Boards and across the NoS and we are working to ensure this work aligns to these.

- NoSPHN provides ongoing advice and support to NoSPG work programmes through Public Health colleagues who sit on the regional networks for example: NOSCAN; the Cardiac Network and the Dental Health Network. In addition NoSPHN has provided support to work programmes through for example use of Public Health related tools developed from the NoSPG Horizon scanning work, the intelligent region, and logic modelling tools for example in the development of the NoSPG neuromuscular post.
- Supporting NoSPG with new developments / in period of review?

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

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NoSPG / NoSPHN joint priorities for 2014-15

NoSPHN and NoSPG will continue to progress ongoing developments from the 2013/14 workplan including:

- Develop a coordinated programme of work to support health service improvement at regional and local levels including:
 - Continued support to NOSCAN and the NoS Oncology Services Review
 - Continuing work on low volumes / outcomes and sustainability in the NoS aligned to wider NoSPG work on the sustainability of services in the North of Scotland
 - Support regional approaches to NoS Dental Public Health
 - To support the delivery of the Cardiac Services Regional Delivery Plan and improve understanding of projected need and the impact on service capacity and accessibility.
- To promote and deliver activities in support of the 'Intelligent Region' and work with Health Intelligence colleagues across the North to maximise local, regional and national activities
- To develop and deliver activities in line with the outcomes of the NoSPG Horizon Scanning programme of work including a continued focus on the IFF* 3 horizons approaches to work
- Maximise our links with national organisations eg ScotPHN and contribute to national developments with a focus on remote and rural health.