

North of Scotland Public Health Network (NoSPHN) Annual Report 2012/13

Dr Sarah Taylor, Director of Public Health for NHS Shetland led NoSPHN to the end of August 2012. The NoSPHN lead role is shared between the North of Scotland (NoS) Directors of Public Health and rotated on a 2-3 year basis and Dr Margaret Somerville Director of Public Health in NHS Highland was nominated to the Lead role from September 2012. 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 of Planning; representatives from regional working groups and programmes; and national bodies eg the Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN).

Benefits to Patients

The NoS Public Health Network ensures that regional initiatives are informed by the best available evidence and identified population need so that we make the best possible decisions within the resources available for the people of the North of Scotland.

NoSPHN supports NoSPG in agreed pieces of work and also develops regional approaches to Public Health services, activities and continuing education. A summary of progress on NoSPHN objectives is highlighted below. Further details of work are available on the NoSPHN website www.nosphn.scot.nhs.uk

Using a logic model approach in NoSPG service planning

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 initially 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. Work this year has focussed on applying the logic model approach to other NoSPG programmes of work for example the development of the new NoS Neuromuscular Advisor post and initial discussions with regard the NoS Paediatric Unscheduled Care project evaluation. The logic model approach has been incorporated into the NoSPG project scoping planning tools.

Horizon Scanning

NoSPG asked 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.nospg.nhsscotland.com and NoSPHN website 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 it¹ 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 activities 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 Board². 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 debate and develop the approach and understand the potential impacts for regional and Board work. A NoSPG '**blue print**' for service development, planning or 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 developments are informed by Public Health perspectives 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 Horizon Scanning work with colleagues with the aim of exploring and sharing the impacts and challenges of the work and lessons learned.

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 (42% of respondents had not used the work) and 83% of respondents indicated that the work had an impact on them as individuals or organisations eg their thinking, decision making or 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 and 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 and 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 and progressed – these have which have been supported by NoSPG and will inform the NoSPHN and NoSPG workplans for 2013/14.

¹ www.internationalfuturesforum.com/

² Intelligent Board February 2006 www.drfoosterintelligence.co.uk/thought-leadership/intelligent-board/

Drug and Therapeutics

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

- Discussions about community pharmacy input into Detecting Cancer Early
- Work on sharing of Patient Group Directions
- Sharing of Standard Operating Procedures for Patient Access Schemes and
- A meeting also took place between NOSCAN, ADTC leads and clinical staff to determine how best to work together around budget setting, horizon scanning, Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) implementation, Individual Patient Treatment Requests, databases and standards for chemotherapy.

Cardiac services

NoSPHN supported the Cardiac Surgery review (with health intelligence advice and support) and also the NoS Cardiac Network event in November 2012 which it is intended will guide the development of the network's work programme for 2013/14.

Other work ongoing

- NoSPHN is currently scoping work to understand the evidence for and impacts of low surgical volume and outcomes in relation to the sustainability of regional services.
- NoSPHN is supporting the NOSCAN Hepatobiliary Cancer Review Group in particular with the use of an option appraisal tool to assess models of delivery.
- NoSPHN health improvement colleagues are reviewing NoS collaborative approaches to the outcomes of the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives Review.

Supporting Regional and National Working

Public Health colleagues are nominated to sit on and advise NoSPG groups e.g. NOSCAN, Oral Health and Dentistry and the Cardiac Networks. NoSPHN has continued also 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 has supported where appropriate national working groups for example this year this has included the National Health Protection Stocktake review and has sought to influence national discussions with regards Geographical Information Systems (GIS). One of the main foci of such 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 (with ScotPHN) and responding on a NoS basis to national consultations and processes e.g. Detect Cancer Early, anticipatory care mainstreaming discussions, reviews of national groups eg the National Services Advisory Group and input to the National Review of Regional Planning in which the work and contribution of NoSPHN to regional working was positively highlighted.

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. In line with national drivers to support the development of asset based approaches for public health, NoSPHN 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) and we have been following up local developments arising from the event during the year. A framework for developing and supporting CPD on a NoS basis has also been developed.

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.

Acknowledgements

NoSPHN would wish to record their thanks for the significant support Dr Sarah Taylor has given to NoSPHN in her period of leadership. Sarah will continue to represent NoSPHN on the North of Scotland Planning Group.

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

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Priorities for 2013-14 North of Scotland Public Health Network

NoSPHN will continue to progress ongoing developments from the 2012/13 workplan and deliver an agreed programme of regional and national Public Health activities as appropriate including:

- To develop and deliver work in response to the findings of the Horizon Scanning review.
- 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.
- Develop a coordinated programme of work to support health service improvement at regional and local levels e.g. the planning blue print and the 'Intelligent Region'.
- To organise and support appropriate professional development opportunities in response to local and regional needs. CPD and development events in planning include support to ongoing asset based approaches work, developing the concept of the Intelligent Region, exploring the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) tools across the North; a workplace planning session to understand collective NoS Public Health workforce challenges and how new ways of working may support future needs and interests and planning for the next Scottish Public Health Faculty Conference which will be held in the North in 2014.
- Further supporting collaborative approaches to Drug and Therapeutics across the NoS (for example implementation of the output of national review of ADTCs; implementation of the Scottish Government output of national review of IPTRs and develop support for staff unfamiliar with processes; work together on systems/ processes required to implement the New Rare Medicines Fund and forecast potential spend; and to consider how the North of Scotland as a region can work with: MSPs; the Pharmaceutical industry and to understand impact of integration agenda).
- Continued support to the NoSCAN Hepatobiliary Cancer review group.
- Scope and develop a project to review small volumes / outcomes and sustainability in the NoS.
- Implementation of the national Health Protection Stocktake and any related regional work.
- Develop a regional approach to NoS Dental Public Health.
- To coordinate health improvement activities where it is agreed there is an added value in doing so at a NoS level including collaborative work with regards the Scottish Healthy Working Lives scheme and maximising health improvement opportunities across the NoS.

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