

Update from the Special Interest Groups

Group:	Public Health Nutrition Group (PHNG)
Chair:	Dr Ruth Campbell, Consultant Dietitian in Public Health Nutrition, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Deputy:	Anne Gebbie-Diben, Health Improvement Lead, NHS Glasgow & Clyde
Member organisations:	Territorial NHS Boards, NHS Health Scotland, Food Standards Scotland
Aims of SIG:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be recognised as the expert group for public health nutrition in Scotland; ○ Ensure that public health nutrition issues are considered in all relevant policies/frameworks which impact on population health; ○ Proactively identify and lead on responding to opportunities which can influence key decisions and national Scottish Government policies or initiatives; ○ Provide representation on external bodies and committees in Scotland; ○ Promote and implement Scotland/UK wide public health nutrition strategies and policies; ○ Provide a support network for members and facilitate cross-Board and cross-partner collaborative work; ○ Ensure efficient and effective dialogue amongst territorial Boards, NHS Health Scotland, Food Standards Scotland and Scottish Government; ○ Develop links with colleagues in academia to identify and collaborate on research areas of mutual interest to build capacity for and inform the evidence base for public health nutrition policy and practice.
Describe the work undertaken in the last year and any impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We responded to two significant consultations: Scottish Government's Reducing health harms of foods high in fat, sugar and salt; and Food Standards Scotland's Out of Home Strategy. ○ Chair of PHNG has chaired a subgroup on a second height and weight measurement of schoolchildren beyond Primary 1. Membership comprised of a number of NHS Boards, Health Scotland, ScotPHN, SG Policy Lead and ISD. A discussion paper is currently being finalised and will be submitted to the Diet & Healthy Weight Policy team by early July. This will inform the next phase of work to implement the associated action in the Diet & Healthy Weight Delivery Plan.
How has the SIG supported the wider system and Public Health Reform?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHNG Chair presented at the DsPH joint meeting with the CMO and led the development of a position paper on behalf of the DsPHs on healthy weight as part of Public Health priority 6: A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHNG Chair represented the group on the Specialist PH Workforce Commission.
Who has the SIG engaged with in the last year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHNG Chair has attended the SDsPH, Health Promotion Managers and Consultants in Dental Public Health to discuss formation of PHNG, its work plan and potential areas for collaboration; ○ Melanie Weldon, Scottish Government – to discuss how the PHNG could support and contribute to implementation of the Diet & Healthy Weight Delivery Plan; ○ Carolyn Wilson, Team Leader, Supporting Maternal & Child Wellbeing, Scottish Government – to discuss how the PHNG could support and contribute to the ongoing implementation of the Maternal & Infant Nutrition Framework; ○ Bill Gray, Health Scotland – to discuss the Inequality Briefing on Food Poverty; ○ Rebecca Whyte, Public Health Reform team – to discuss the Specialist Public Health Workforce Commission; ○ Representatives from academics working in PHN research – see further detail below.
Is the SIG represented on any other national groups?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vicky Bennett - school meals nutrient standards ○ PHNG Chair representing the group on the Pre-conception Group who will develop a national framework for preconception health and care.
Has the SIG held any events in the last year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHNG hosted a joint meeting with representatives from academia working in public health nutrition research in Scotland. Although the intention was to focus the meeting on early years, specifically supporting the health visiting universal pathway, the discussion themes were more wide ranging. It was agreed that it was a useful and unique forum for practitioners and academics to come together and a further meeting is planned for later this year.
What are the main issues the SIG is considering currently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fiona Macdonald, Health Scotland Organisational Lead for Workforce, will join us at our June meeting to discuss the workforce theme in our work plan. ○ Laura Martin, Health Scotland Public Health Intelligence Adviser, will join us at our September meeting to discuss the recently published report 'Impact of in-premise marketing on consumer purchasing and consumption of food.'
What are the SIGs objectives for 2019-20?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2018/19 was the first year of the PHNG since it became a specialist group of ScotPHN. We will continue to develop each of the key themes and the associated actions in our work plan – this will include the strand on diet and environmental sustainability; ○ We will continue to build our relationship with key stakeholders and develop a communication strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continue to support PH Reform and the implementation of the PHPs; the chair sits on the DPH Delivery Group for PHP6 (Healthy weight) which will support implementation of the DPH Delivery Plan.
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