**Mortality Special Interest Group**

**15th March 2023, 13:00-14:30, Via Microsoft Teams**

***Chair-Margaret Douglas***

***Action Note***

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| **Attendee** | **Organisation** |
| Margaret Douglas (MD) | Public Health Scotland (Chair) |
| Gillian McCartney (DM) | Public Health Scotland |
| Arlene Reynolds (AR) | Scottish Government |
| Calli Dougall (CD) | Scottish Government |
| Neil White (NW) | Scottish Government |
| Clare Campbell (CC) | NHS Fife |
| David Rae (DR) | NHS Ayrshire & Arran |
| David Walsh (DW) | Glasgow Centre for Population Health  |
| Philip Broadbent (PB) | NHS Dumfries & Galloway |
| Julie Ramsay (JR) | National Records Scotland |
| Lynda Fenton (LF) | Public Health Scotland |
| Sarah Wild (SW) | University of Edinburgh  |
| Carolyn Hunter-Rowe (CHR) | NHS Highland |
| Denise Patrick (DP) | Scottish Government |
| Craig Waugh (CW) | Scottish Government |
| Jonne ter Braake (JB) | Population Health Management |
| *Ann Conacher (AC)* | *Public Health Scotland (Apologies)* |
| *Daniel Burns (DB)* | *National Records Scotland* |
| *Jonathon Minton (JM)* | *Public Health Scotland (Apologies)* |
| *Grant Wyper (GW)* | *Public Health Scotland (Apologies)* |
| *Gerry McCartney (GM)* | *University of Glasgow (Apologies)* |
| *Ashleigh Jenkins (AJ)* | *Public Health Scotland (Apologies)* |
| *Ruth Hoggett (RH)* | *NHS Tayside (Apologies)* |
| *Joe Schofield (JS)* | *University of Stirling (Apologies)* |
| *Alastair Irvine* | *Scottish Government (Apologies)* |
| *Shivani Karanwal* | *Public Health Scotland (Apologies)* |
| *Chris Robertson* | *University of Strathclyde (Apologies)* |
| *Emma Baird* | *NHS Tayside (Apologies)* |
| *Karen Macnee* | *Scottish Government (Apologies)* |
| *Rebecca Devine* | *NHS Lothian (Apologies)* |

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| **Agenda Item** | **Action/Comments** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Welcome & Apologies** | MD welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions from new members CD, DP, and CW from the SG covid health analysis unit of H&SC – a decision will be made going forward on who from the unit is best placed to attend these meetings. JB is a master’s student in population health management in the Netherlands and invited by SW. Apologies were also noted as above.  |  |
| **2. Note** **from Previous meeting** | Group confirmed the note from 2nd February 2023 was accurate. |  |
| **3. Updated summary of changing mortality in Scotland** | DW presented on the [Changing Mortality Rates in Scotland and the UK summary](https://www.gcph.co.uk/publications/1083_changing_mortality_rates_in_scotland_and_the_uk_an_updated_summary) published in February 2023. Discussion followed around:* Overall stalling of improvement and worsening of mortality is similar across the UK – common route cause is austerity policies
* Premature mortality – changes have worsened in Scotland partly due to drug related deaths
* Issues around awareness -

Media/comms – [Changing Life Expectancy in the UK](https://www.gcph.co.uk/life-expectancy) and the [Resetting the course of population Health report](https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/8723/Stalled_Mortality_report_FINAL_WEB.pdf) were published by GCPH in May 2022 with a big press release and media push. Information is seeping through, however, still an ongoing struggle to get people to understand how significant an issue this is. It was suggested that this group considers a comms strategy. Comms is to be a standing item on future agendas – opportunity to broaden messages (animations) and collectively work with SG colleagues to test out* Obesity – plays a small part
* Drug related deaths – various studies published – we do have the evidence to show what has driven the high rate of deaths – austerity e.g., cuts to addiction services. NRS are working with other partners on a blog about the comparability of the data across the UK – more than one measure of drugs deaths but gap is considerable.

**Action: Comms as a standing item going forward** | **MD/ScotPHN** |
| **4. Current mortality trends – research questions** | The research questions were shared previously, the group reviewed the current list along with suggested additional questions. Some are being taken forward already by members of the group. Following a very useful discussion it was agreed that a small group (DW, SW, DR, JR, MD) would meet to further consider the main top layer question i.e., No. 1. **Action: Meeting to be arranged before next SIG meeting** | **MD/ScotPHN** |
| **5. AOB** | NRS are publishing their [Monthly Mortality Analysis](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/monthly-mortality-analysis-scotland) report on 16 March 2023. This maybe a useful resource for this group. |  |
| ***6. Close & Date of next meeting*** | Date of Next Meeting: - approximately 3 months’ time. ScotPHN will send doodle poll to the group in due course. MD thanked everyone for their contribution and brought the meeting to a close. | **MD/ScotPHN** |