**SOHRC Edinburgh meeting**

**Friday 31st March 2.00pm, St Andrew’s House**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Margie Taylor (Chair), Angus Walls, Jeremy Bagg, Lorna Macpherson, Deirdre Kelliher

1. Introductions
2. Remit, structure and future direction of SOHRC

The oversight of the SOHRC is via a Steering group chaired by MT and comprises 3 research groups: Craniofacial, Public Health and Dental Education.

JB reported on the recent visit to Aberdeen to discuss future involvement of Aberdeen Dental School in SOHRC particularly in the areas of Public Health and Dental Education. LM reported on the Dundee visit and the need to re-examine and re-invigorate the existing collaboration.

1. Research priorities from a Scottish Government perspective

Prevention of oral disease is a top priority for the Scottish Government. LM asked if MT could identify specific areas which could perhaps relate to the new Oral Health Plan and help the Public Health Research group to move forward in an appropriate direction. It was agreed it could be beneficial if a re-focussed plan for future development was available around the time of the publication of the Scottish Oral Health Plan.

1. Overview of current work within SOHRC subgroups

AW reported that the Craniofacial group had submitted an application to NIH with the University of Pittsburgh. PhD students jointly supervised by Glasgow and Dundee had given presentations at the group meeting in March. He also mentioned that Prof Peter Mossey was looking for funding to link with the Generation Scotland work. Mairead Bermingham, a genetic epidemiologist from the University of Edinburgh, was a key member of the group. She is looking at funding opportunities for future collaborative projects.

LM reported on the activities of the Public Health group which had mainly focussed on the elderly population and included HOPSCOTCH and a current Dunhill Medical Trust project, ISCOPE, led by Dr Alastair Ross at Glasgow. The project is centred on Care Homes and the researchers work with the Care Home organisation, Enrich. Andrea Sherriff is currently completing a Cochrane review on care champions. LM also mentioned a possible future collaboration relating to quality of life with Ekta Gupta from the University of Aberdeen.

JB reported on discussions with David Felix, NES about the direction of the Dental Education Research Group. Future projects could include competence and assessment using data gathered from Lift-up and MMIs. David Felix was also interested in extending research to include vocational training. The next meeting of the group will take place in May/June and Linda Prescott Clements will be invited to speak.

1. Overview of Research in the Edinburgh Dental Institute and opportunities for collaboration

AW has 6 PhD students. The Dental Institute has a collaboration with Heriot Watt University on Population Health and an internal collaboration with the Department of Chemistry. The involvement of Mairead Bermingham in craniofacial research has been a success.

1. Availability of Scottish Government funding for research nurses

JB clarified that the funding for research nurses in Glasgow and Dundee had come from the NHS and that AW should discuss the matter with NHS Lothian R&D.

1. SOHRC conference – September 2017

The main theme would be Dental Education research. Richard Ibbetson at Aberdeen has recommended Prof Jen Cleland as the keynote speaker.

1. Role of SOHRC Project coordinator

DK reported that she had been organising meetings for the research groups and had begun organising the 2017 conference. She had also visited Dundee and Aberdeen Universities with JB and LM.

1. Updating the SOHRC website

MT would like the website updated before the revised strategy is issued. DK will work on this.

1. Other: Research administration contacts at the University of Edinburgh

Helen Cullion is the contact for the Dental Institute.

1. Date and Venue for next meeting

As required.