**Minutes of the Public Health and Health Services Research Day at**

**Glasgow Dental Education Centre on Tuesday 29th May, 2018, 9.45-4.00pm**

**Present**: Jeremy Bagg, Lorna Macpherson, Jan Clarkson, Linda Young, David Conway, Andrea Sherriff, Alastair Ross, Ekta Gupta, Rasha Abu-Eid, Deirdre Kelliher

**Apologies**: Ruth Freeman

1. **Welcome and introduction**

JB introduced the meeting, welcoming Rasha Abu-Eid, the Neck and Cancer lead from the University of Aberdeen.

1. **Funding landscape**

JC described the funding landscape. Funding opportunities include:

CSO – Catalyst and larger Project grants

NIHR – Researcher led and commissioned

ESRC

Joint funding opportunities e.g. NIHR/Research Councils

It is important for the Group to be proactive and to seek to influence funders (the ongoing James Lind Alliance priority exercise for oral and dental research will be important in shaping future priorities and funding calls).

1. **Oral cancer – a public health/health services perspective**

DC gave a presentation on Prevention and Early Detection of Oral Cavity Cancer

The research focus in Glasgow has been on epidemiology. How this is translated into prevention and early detection is the challenge, including the role of interventions in dental practice.

Areas for research include:

Risk assessment

Prevention in practice

Early detection

Other current research on oral cancer includes:

Aberdeen: Cancer immunology with a focus on head and neck cancer, Biomarkers in relation to risk factors and a studentship looking at Social factors which affect head and neck cancer

Dundee is looking at screening and early detection but this needs to be translated into guidance for practitioners.

Developing a collaborative application

There are a number of questions for consideration:

Should the group adopt oral cancer as one of its themes?

Is oral cancer a high enough priority for research in this area to be funded?

Oral cancer is only one part of oral health assessment. Would a broader based research project be more attractive to funders?

What guidance/signposting do dentists need?

What is the potential to identify health issues within a dental practice which could save the Health Service costs in the future?

What screening could take place in a dental practice and would extra support be required to achieve this? A feasibility study might be funded by CSO.

It was agreed to explore prevention in practice projects linked to wider / common risk factors and Non-communicable Disease (NCD) agenda.

1. **Child oral health** – a public health/health services perspective

AR gave a presentation on the project, A systems analysis of fluoride varnish application in general practice in Scotland: Using the functional resonance analysis method. Following interviews and workshops with patients and dentists, a tool kit is being designed which should be available by the end of August. Testing with Dentists would then follow. This could lead to an application to CSO or the Health Foundation. The group should think about costs bearing in mind implications for R&D throughout Scotland– **action all**

1. **Oral health of older adults**

AS described the progress made with the Dunhill project, a joint project focussing on older people. An additional 5 care homes had been included in the study following comments from the Advisory Group for the project. A future application to NIHR develop an intervention is being considered.

1. **Other projects**

Dundee leading a project investigating partial caries remove being submitted to NIHR. Glasgow and Aberdeen colleagues are collaborating.

Ruth Freeman is working on prison and homeless project.

Aberdeen has a project involving 31 care homes and is organising training for dentist to facilitate the collection of data.

**Next steps**

Organise a follow up meeting in the autumn and include PhD students – **DK to arrange.**