**SOHRC Aberdeen meeting**

**Tuesday 21st March, University of Aberdeen Dental School 11.00am**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Prof RichardIbbetson, Dr Karolin Hijazi, Dr Ekta Gupta, Prof Lorna Macpherson, Prof Jeremy Bagg, Deirdre Kelliher

1. Introductions - Richard Ibbetson, Director of Dentistry, Karolin Hijazi, Senior Clinical Lecturer and Dental Research Committee lead.
2. Remit, structure and future direction of SOHRC

LM gave the history of SOHRC and explained that it is overseen by a Steering Group chaired by Margie Taylor, Chief Dental Officer and includes the Heads of Schools and Dental Research Directors from each University involved, the NES Dental Director and the Leads of the Special Interest groups. The Collaboration is assisted by an Administrator (DK) and the post is currently funded by the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow and NES.

1. Role of SOHRC Project coordinator

The post exists to support collaborative research grant applications. DK organises meetings for the Research Groups. The Craniofacial Research Group met in March and the other groups will meet during May/June. DK is organising the September conference. She will also work on updating the SOHRC website.

1. Overview of current work within SOHRC subgroups

The three current groups are:

Craniofacial Group which has members from Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh and has recently submitted an application to NIH with the University of Pittsburgh.

Public Health. Current collaboration between Glasgow and Dundee includes the Dunhill Medical Trust funded project**,** Improving Systems of Care for the Older PErson (I-SCOPE).

The Education Research Group includes David Felix from NES and looks at competence assessment. The theme of the SOHRC conference will be Dental Education research.

1. Potential involvement of Aberdeen Dental School in SOHRC and subgroups

There are currently six members of staff at Aberdeen with a research background. RI is keen to encourage collaboration with other Schools within the University of Aberdeen and also external universities. KH is interested in strategies to control microbial disease and has collaborated with Prof Andrew Smith at Glasgow. Oral Sciences at Glasgow are not currently part of SOHRC but this could be an area for development.

Ekta Gupta joined the meeting to talk about her interests in public health research. LM described the main themes in public health at Glasgow. EG would like to be part of the Public Health group and will visit Glasgow for further discussion with LM. She should be invited to the next group meeting in May.

Both JB and RI felt that there was potential for the involvement of the Aberdeen Dental School within Dental education research, possibly looking at Competence assessment using data from Lift-up and MMIs.

1. SOHRC conference – September 2017

RI suggested inviting Prof Jen Cleland, Head of Medical Education Research at the University of Aberdeen, to be the keynote speaker at the conference and will send contact details (already actioned). The format of the conference would be updates from the SOHRC research groups with discussion, the main presentation around the theme of education research followed by breakout groups in the afternoon.

1. Updating the SOHRC website

The website is currently very out of date and requires new information from all the Research groups. DK will follow up.