**Minutes of the Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration**

**Public Health and Health Services Research Group Meeting**

**University of Dundee Dental School, 15th February, 2018**

Present: Prof Jeremy Bagg (Chair), Prof Jan Clarkson, Prof David Conway, Prof Ruth Freemen, Dr Ekta Gupta, Prof Lorna Macpherson, Dr Andrea Sherriff, Dr Linda Young

Apologies: Deirdre Kelliher

1. **Introduction and REF 2021**

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting. He discussed the relevance of this SOHRC subgroup to potential developments associated with preparations for REF 2021. Following a REF Interim Research Review at the University of Glasgow, it was suggested there would be merit it considering a joint UoA3 return between the Universities of Dundee and Glasgow. Preliminary discussions involving senior management at both institutions suggest there is willingness to explore this further.

1. **Update on current research activity**

JC gave an update on the NIHR HTA IQuaD, INTERVAL and FiCTION trials. She also provided information on further funding which she had applied for relating to the management of caries. She will be reapplying following a change to the outcome measure. The BRIGHT Trial, led by Nicola Innes, on a text messaging behaviour change programme to improve the oral health of young people living in deprived areas, will complete its pilot phase in March.

LY informed the group that the update of the SDCEP guidance on the Prevention and Management of Dental Caries in Children will be published soon. There will be testing of components of the guidance via audit/feedback utilising routine data.

LY reminded the group of the opportunity for primary care dentists to participate in dental practice-based research projects as part of Quality Improvement activity in Dental Practice.

A suite of Cochrane Reviews, involving a large number of groups, is underway. This is looking at how to more efficiently make use of synthesised evidence.

RF provided an update on her research relating to the oral health of people in custody. This includes an oral health survey and health coaching. The work on homelessness has been rolled out to Boards and has been well received.

LM spoke about research relating to child oral health. The recent Childsmile Evaluation Symposium had received positive feedback. It was agreed this was a topic area where the subgroup could work together on developing grant applications and a meeting would be arranged to take this forward.

AS tabled a short summary of the research relating to the oral health of older people (attached). ISCOPE, the currently funded SOHRC collaborative project is progressing well.

AS has held discussions with EG about her work on measuring quality of life and how this could form part of the work with older people. EG is currently undertaking a care home survey in Grampian. She is also participating in CBT work relating to dental anxiety with the PDS in Aberdeen City, and if feasible, the plan is to roll it out across the Health Board. EG is also working with RF on mapping the services in local communities for people experiencing homelessness.

DC reported that to-date it has not been possible to take the HOPSCOTCH work further. Cochrane oral cancer update reviews are underway. PhD students are also conducting overviews on examination and prevention practices in primary dental care. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to discuss the potential for joint work on the theme of oral cancer research.

1. **Research Administration**

JC suggested that Lorna Barnsley, Programme Administrator for SDPBRN, would be a good contact for Deirdre Kelliher in relation to subgroup activity.

1. **Future Activity – Action Plan**

It was agreed that a one day meeting should be held in Glasgow over the coming months. The two themes to be discussed during the day would be research relating to 1] child oral health and 2] oral cancer. DK will be asked to arrange the meeting. **Action: DK**

1. **Date of next meeting**

TBC