

**SSPC Advisory Group Meeting  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
Draft Minutes**

**Present:** Frank Sullivan (FS), Alison Hinds (AH), Kate Niven (KN), David Gani (DG), Alison Spaul (AS), Derek Feely (DF), Joyce Munro (JM), Brian Fagg (BF), Martin Roland (MR) via teleconference

|          |  |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>Apologies:</b> Dr Mike Watson,</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b><br/>Laura Wilkie, Secretary</p>  |                 |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>   | <b>ACTION</b>   |
|          | AS asked that she is added to be present at the last meeting. The group agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of what was said at the meeting.  | <b>L Wilkie</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Review of Progress with the Workstreams based on draft annual report</b>  |                 |
|          | <p>FS presented to the group key aspects of the annual report and asked the group for views on a number of areas. FS clarified the financial situation with regards to the SSPC and explained that the previous school had funding committed through NHS. He also stated that additional money has come through the application to Scottish Funding Council and the joint investment from the 9 universities.</p> <p>FS reported that Robert Gordon University approached the SSPC for membership and FS is glad to announce that they now make up 1 of the 9 consortium members.</p> <p>FS reviewed the programmes and stated that they have developed since the last meeting. Glasgow/Stirling now have Stewart Mercer in post as the programme lead and Peter Murchie is in post in Aberdeen. FS stated that Edinburgh are currently advertising.</p> <p>He reported that he hoped that different universities would be able to apply for the CSO applied research programme bids the next time around. MR stated that B Sibbald in England is doing similar work to B Guthrie and that she might be a good contact for him.</p> <p>AH reported that the number of National and Local studies facilitated by SPCRN have increased since 2005 and are expected to keep increasing. However this does mean that more staff will be required. She explained that the R&amp;D</p> |                 |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          | <p>support funds are now held centrally by SSPC which may encourage some of the smaller health boards to take part in the studies.</p> <p>The group suggested that a Locally Enhanced Service for practices could be piloted in either Fife &amp; Forth Valley or Grampian.</p>  |   |
| <b>4</b> |  |   |
|          | <p>FS suggested that CHAIN are contacted to help SSPC create a database of expertise. They are now based near Stonehaven and may be able to adapt a current database to list people's interests and expertise.</p> <p>The group noted that 4 SCREDS lecturers have been appointed at a junior level and an SRDG has been agreed to appoint medical senior clinical fellows/lecturers.</p> <p>AH and FS reported that there are not many graduates applying for academic primary care clinical pots so it is important to go straight to the early undergraduate years to try and tempt them to get into research early on.</p> <p>The group suggested that international collaboration is very important and FS stated although funding has been identified for this it has not yet been taken forward. Two specific suggestions were discussed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting professorships supported by Scottish based post-doctoral assistants or lecturers.</li> <li>2. Higher level training in research and education in a manner similar to the Harvard School of Public Health.</li> </ol> <p>FS agreed to pursue this.</p> <p>AH explained that the local SPCRN trials are totally research based and a large proportion of the studies are eligibly funded. She stated that they don't take on any small projects. DG suggested that FS checks whether every HEI is being fully credited with its Knowledge transfer grant. DG stated that AH can see him with help with this or she can contact Ann Miller in the SFC office. The group noted that this should be reported back at the next meeting.</p> <p>DF stated that he could help to identify people to help with linking the programmes to the policy makers.</p> | <p><b>F Sullivan</b></p> <p><b>A Hinds/ F Sullivan</b></p> <p><b>L Wilkie</b></p> |
| <b>B</b> | <b>Plans for next year</b>   |   |

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
|          | <p>DG reported to the group that in a very significant development a joint framework for the Scottish Government, Universities Scotland and SFC has been created to explore funding and relationship issues. The Scottish Government is challenging universities to provide more effective knowledge transfer and come up with agreements on outcomes in exchange for inputs into future spending review considerations. The group noted that there will be 2 streams of funding, a general fund for universities and a horizon fund. The Scottish Government will expect applied research to fit in with its strategic objectives.</p> <p>DG indicated that there is now a mechanism to see this moving forward and that ideas and views will be submitted by Council by 23 September. DG stated that the agenda isn't just about research but covers potentially everything universities do. In future funded activity would be aligned to support the Government's Purpose. It was noted the Scottish Government has a single outcome agreement with Local Authorities. FS agreed to feed this back to the rest of the group.</p> <p>DG and AS agreed to meet to discuss the implementation structure.</p> <p>* The interim report was published on 24 June and with it some timescales for outcomes.</p> | <p><b>F Sullivan</b></p> <p><b>D Gani, Alison Spaul</b></p>                  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Long term strategy</b>  |  |
|          | <p>EU Dimension – FS agreed that more effort will be made with regards to EU dimensions and to secure relationships with visiting professors. The group noted that it may be an idea to address the gap on the self assessment first then they would be in a better position to deal with EU matters. The group suggested that 2 other collaborators can be on a grant if they are not from Europe.</p> <p>JM and BF asked the group what they would like them to do with regards to agenda matters. The group suggested that they comment on any planned work and projects that the SSPC group are working on. A list of programmes should be sent to them in order to advise if they think that the public would be interested in the chosen list. They should also comment if the committee is addressing the issues correctly.</p>   | <p><b>F Sullivan</b></p> <p><b>J Munro, B Fagg</b></p> <p><b>A Hinds</b></p> |
|          | <b>Date of next meeting</b>  |  |
|          | <p>The date of the next meeting will be in November in Edinburgh. L Wilkie will circulate a grid to find a suitable date for all to attend. It was noted that a venue with video conferencing facilities should be used.</p>   | <p><b>L Wilkie</b></p>   |