



## Case Study 3: The Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy

Lost in Translation: Getting evidence into policy  
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John Frank  
Director  
Scottish Collaboration for Public Health  
Research & Policy

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## SCPHRP Mission

- To identify key areas of opportunity for developing novel public health interventions that equitably address major health problems in Scotland, and move those forward.
- To foster collaboration between government, researchers and the public health community to develop a national programme of intervention development, large-scale implementation and robust evaluation.
- Build capacity within the public health community for collaborative research of the highest quality, with maximum impact on policies, programs and practice.

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## Overview of the Process

- In January 2009 SCPHRP convened structured Planning Workshop of >70 Scottish public health experts to prioritise potential programme and policy interventions for development.
- Four Working Groups established involving over 60 public health researchers, policy makers and practitioners, organised around the life course:
  - Early Life
  - Teenage and early adulthood
  - Early to mid-working life
  - Later life
- Working Groups developing three-year work programmes designed to support the development and piloting of a few promising and novel interventions and programs.
- SCPHRP will facilitate the work of the Working Groups and provide limited seed-funding, as well as direct support.
- Key deliverable from Working Groups: major intervention study grant application(s) to large external funding agencies by 2012.

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## Working Group Development

- Around 60 members of the public health community agreed to participate in one or more of 4 Working Groups each with 10-13 members.
- First meeting aims were to:
  - Consider the priority areas identified at the Planning Workshop
  - Confirm that areas identified are still of interest and refine further
  - Identify potential contributions of WG members relevant to the areas identified, and build WG sense of common purpose.
- Process of and outcomes from WGs differed.
- Presentations and up-dates from carefully selected policy leads revealed that there was a considerable amount of policy-driven activity relevant to the Early Life and Adolescence WGs
- This underlined the importance of a continuing dialogue between policy and research and practice (some "AHA!" moments occurred):
  - To ensure a common understanding among all WG members
  - To identify a particular niche for activity of WGs

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## Working Group Activity Supported by ...

- Four Career Development Fellows
  - Environmental scans
    - Structured review of global literature
    - Set within the context of analysis of current policy; overview of existing programmes; and local evaluation and monitoring activity
- Seed-funding
  - Pilot/feasibility studies
  - Development of improved population-level monitoring and record-linkage systems
- SCPHRP Internship for MRC PhD Student (6-month placement)
  - Non-parametric regression and novel graphic depictions of SES inequalities in Scottish health outcomes, by area dep-cat score, over time
- SCPHRP Attachment Lothian Health (Senior Policy Analyst)
  - Analysis of policies (Scottish/UK/EU) that drive the obesity epidemic/obesogenic environment

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## Early Life WG Portfolio

- **Environmental scan interventions to promote cognitive and social development in children aged 2 to 4 year**
- Investigation of observed increases in breastfeeding rates in deprived areas.
- Enhancing information systems to support children's health and development: exploring options in Glasgow
- *Exploration with Health Boards new record-linkage between the health and education sectors, and the use of EDI (readiness to learn) to monitor overall, and SES gradients in, development ([www.earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca))*

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## Adolescent and Young Adult WG Portfolio

- **Environmental scan interventions that address multiple risk behaviours or take a generic approach to risk**
  - *Secondary analysis of survey data to assess clustering of risk behaviours in 18 year olds in 1990 and 2003*
- Youth male violence in Scotland: Understanding antecedents, reducing recidivism, and tackling health inequalities
- Whole school interventions addressing multiple adolescent risk behaviours in Scotland: a feasibility study

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## Early to Mid-working Life Portfolio

- **Environmental scan of interventions to tackle obesogenic aspects of the environment**
  - *Analysis of policies (Scottish/UK/EU) that drive the obesity epidemic/obesogenic environment*
  - *Development of obesity indicators with ISD*
- *Loyalty card scheme to incentivise healthy eating (under development)*
- *Interventions to reduce sickness absence at work (under development)*

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## Later Life WG Portfolio

- **Environmental scan of interventions in primary care/community settings that prevent or delay functional decline in the frail and elderly**
- Development of a risk prediction tool for entering a nursing home in those aged 65 and over in a Scottish population
- Preventing or delaying disablement amongst older adults: mapping the Scottish landscape to identify promising programmes
- Feasibility study of use of direct payments for informal care.
- *Exploration with GPs in Highland re ramped-up trial of pilot intervention to reduce unnecessary admissions in the frail elderly, based on integration of GP-held chronic disease registries and prior hospitalization data.*

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## Taking the Environmental Scans Forward

### Environmental Scans

- Build the case for action
- Identify contributing factors and points of intervention
- Evaluate potential interventions within context of current policy environment

### Next Steps

- Defining range of opportunities for intervention
- Selecting portfolio of specific interventions

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## Draft Overview of Obesity Interventions

CERTAINTY	IMPACT		
	LOW	MOD	HIGH
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
HIGH	Workplace price incentives	FOOD's	??
MOD	Multi-component Workplace	Portion size restrictions	Modifications to enhance safety
LOW	Proximity to food choices	Active travel incentives/ facilities	Personal Travel Plans (evaluated)
<b>Economic &amp; Political Environment</b>			
HIGH	Local price incentives	Trade restrictions / Tariffs	Sugared beverage tax
MOD	Financial incentives for PA / Exercise referral	Food labelling / Workplace rules	Agricultural frameworks / CAP reform
LOW	Purely information based campaigns	Workplace rules & regulations	Subsidised public transport
<b>Socio-cultural Environment</b>			
HIGH	Workplace Multi-component interventions		Multi-comp. information + structural/rg.measures
MOD	Food absent restrictions	Large-scale public events (attitude change)	Mass media activity campaigns
LOW	Primary care exercise referral	Personal travel plans	Consumer targeted incentives

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Mooney et al, 2010

## Selecting the Portfolio

- **Stakeholder Workshop**
  - Transferability
  - Feasibility
  - Sustainability
  - Unintended consequences
  - Likely impact on inequalities
  - Political, professional and public acceptability
- **Further information may be required to inform that debate**
  - Feasibility studies
  - Stakeholder surveys
  - Modelling of likely impacts (including inequalities)

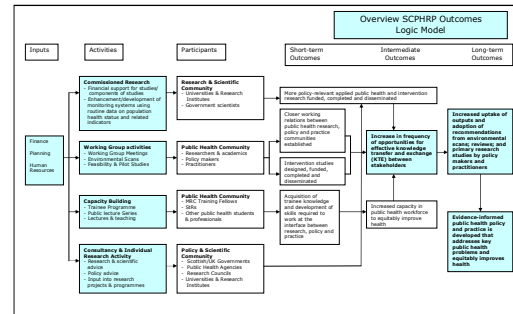
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## Evaluation: Importance of developing population level monitoring

- Obesity indicator project (ISD)
- Working with expert group will:
  - Identify core set indicators across different domains (health; physical, socio-cultural, economic & political environments)
  - Assess potential for improving existing indicators and filling gaps
- Selected indicators may be used for performance monitoring by SG

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## SCPHRP Evaluation Logic Model



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## SCPHRP Evaluation Indicators

SCPHRP Activity and Outcomes	Indicators of success	Data Required	Data Sources
<b>SCPHRP Research</b>			
Important gaps are filled	Parameters of research are negotiated with appropriate range of stakeholders	Documentation priorities, roles and responsibilities Written terms of reference	Agendas and meeting minutes Stakeholder interviews Project documents
Research disseminated	Research findings are disseminated in a variety of ways suitable for all stakeholders	Number of papers published Number of presentations/workshops Number of different types of dissemination Stakeholder reviews	Project documents Dissemination plans Copies of presentations Stakeholder reviews
Research influences policy and practice	Implications of research are understood by all stakeholders	Discussion or citation of research Stakeholder enquiries about research	Government reports and unofficial communications Tracking of stakeholder enquiries Stakeholder interviews
<b>Working Group Activities</b>			
Clear working relationships	Clear and frequent communication and discussion Evidence of new collaborations between WG members	Frequency & type of meeting Details of who was involved Stakeholder satisfaction with process New research collaborations New invitations for WG members to sit on scientific or Government committees	Agendas and meeting minutes Stakeholder interviews
Identification of priority areas for WG	Joint identification of priorities Development of portfolio of projects for each WG, involving different WG members	Documentation of processes	Agendas and meeting minutes Project documents
Appropriate investments in intervention development	Appropriate feasibility/pilot studies developed, funded and conducted	Number of pilots that lead to development of intervention for full evaluation	Project documents Reference reports
Research Grants for Intervention Study	High Quality Intervention Study developed, funded and conducted	Number of funding proposals submitted Number of funding proposals funded Positive referee assessments	Project documents Reference reports

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## Key Features of SCPHRP Approach

- Involvement of stakeholders from policy, research & practice right from the start
- Provides a neutral forum for collaboration
- Both the processes and areas of focus of SCPHRP have been emergent and responsive to context
- Relies on the identification, development and facilitation of networks
- Processes are iterative with multiple feedback loops to check for fit with policy and practice environments
- Approach is explicitly cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary

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## Lessons Learned

- Invest time and energy in developing relationships
- Processes must be flexible and adapt to external environment
- To maintain momentum SCPHRP must build on members interests BUT activities must have a clear locus within and fit with the policy environment
- Continued search and recruitment of new collaborators and networks
- Continuous engagement of policy makers in WG process not always possible – necessary to find alternative fora within which to engage
- Importance of timing
  - Opportunistic
  - Fit with the policy cycle
  - Taking the long view

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## How to Reach Us ....



**John Frank**  
john.frank@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**Sally Haw**  
sally.haw@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**Caroline Rees (PA)**  
caroline.rees@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**Sam Bain (PA)**  
Samantha.bain@hgu.mrc.ac.uk

**SCPHRP Fellows**  
**Helen Frost**  
Helen.frost@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**Rosemary Geddes**  
Rosemary.geddes@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**Caroline Jackson**  
Caroline.jackson@hgu.mrc.ac.uk  
**John Mooney**  
John.mooney@hgu.mrc.ac.uk

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