

NEWS UPDATE FOR DE STEERING GROUP MEETING ON 220921

(Capturing a brief summary of DE activity from June – September 2021)

Project updates

Attached Alcohol Nurses - PCANOS – included in the soon-to-be-launched BMA health inequalities toolkit and is making good ground with participating practices and referrals. Funding not yet secure via the ADP beyond March 2022.

Pioneer Scheme. Pioneer Scheme ended in May 2020, but there are ongoing discussions between David, John and members of the Scottish Government's Short-Life Working Group on Health Inequalities about the possibility of re-launching as a **Fairhealth Scotland Fellowship scheme** involving the wider primary care team to also incorporate elements of the **Govan SHIP** project. This has been included as one of the recommendations from the Scottish Government SLWG on Health Inequalities.

Presentations, Panels, Podcasts

[Health Inequalities and the role of General Practice](#) (GPonline podcast)

Dr Carey Lunan and Dr David Blane from the Deep End Project in Scotland talk about how they are trying to tackle health inequalities and what other practices can learn from their work

[Health inequalities in Scotland and how the Deep End Project aims to balance them](#) (podcast)

Scotland compares very poorly with other countries in Europe and even within the UK when it comes to health inequalities, but why? In S03E02 of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Tea and Talk Podcast, RSE Chief Executive Rebekah Widdowfield talks to Professor Graham Watt CBE FRSE about the reasons and possible answers

Talk to first and second-year GP trainees, Yorkshire and Humber GP Trailblazer Scheme (Graham Watt)

Talk to Diabetes UK, online event: Knowing prevention: social determinants of health. Missingness research discussed and implications for health care. (Andrea Williamson)

Talk for MIMMs online event: How can we address health inequalities in our everyday work? (Carey Lunan)

Presentation to European Forum for Primary Care Conference on the Scotland/Belgium exchange programme in March 2020 (David Blane and Jessica Fraeyman from Belgium)

Presentation to Society for Academic Primary Care conference on findings from the evaluation of the Deep End Pioneer Scheme (David Blane)

Presentation at launch of the Deep End East of England group (David Blane and Graham Watt)

Key DE Events

Deep End roundtable on Climate Change and Health Inequalities (Sept 2021)

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This roundtable was led by Noy Basu and focused on the following areas:

- What are the specific challenges for our DE patients?
- What are the specific challenges for our DE practices?
- What might be some potential solutions?
- What barriers would need to be overcome?
- What resources exist that would be useful to share?

The plan is to create a position paper that can be used for lobbying and media work prior to COP26 in November.

DE Conference 50 Years of the Inverse Care Law

Individual recordings of presentations now available [here](#)

Conference write up and recommendations in process of being finalised post DE steering group and will then be distributed widely. Impact events and publications being considered.

Key Meetings

Scottish Government SLWG on Health Inequalities (Carey and David attend monthly)

Draft recommendations from group being considered including Fairhealth Fellowship (to incorporate elements of SHIP and Pioneer) and an Inclusion Health DES.

Scottish Government National Steering Group on Inclusive Covid19 Vaccination (Carey and John M attend)

John and Carey lobbying for prioritisation of underserved and high-risk groups in any future vaccine rollout programmes based on good practice and lessons learned (rather than adopting a 'mop-up' approach). Have met separately with Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government to discuss this.

Deputy First Minister Covid Recovery Group (Carey)

Due to timings of meetings, it has only been possible to attend one of these meetings, but written feedback has been offered in absentia. Key focus of group appears to be addressing health inequalities and addressing poverty and economic recovery.

Scottish ACEs Hub (Karen and Anne attend)

Work going on about how to bring trauma informed work into the justice system [Trauma-Project-Evaluation-Report.pdf \(cycj.org.uk\)](#). Also work on Infant Mental Health report – attached with hope for more funding. [Assessing the Need for an Infant Mental Health Service in NHS Lanarkshire.pdf](#). concerns around inadequate pre-birth planning and assessment and around children's development as a result of lockdown.

Scottish General Practitioners Committee of the BMA; Carey is co-opted member for expertise on health inequalities.

Introductory meeting with Tim McDonnell, new Director for Primary Care. Discussed interfaces, health inequalities work including need for proposed additional resource on top of GMS, improving cross-sector working, preventative and ACP health stream (Carey)

Meeting with Merron Simpson from Health Creation Alliance (David and Carey)

Research

Williamson AE, McQueenie R, Ellis DA, McConnachie A, Wilson P (2021) [‘Missingness’ in health care: Associations between hospital utilization and missed appointments in general practice. A retrospective cohort study](#). PLoS ONE 16(6): e0253163.

Paper about missed appointments and linked education attendance and attainment in press - BMC Medicine. Link to follow (Andrea Williamson)

David, Stewart and Carey have been successful in their bid for funding from the **Health Foundation** (working with Becks Fisher, primary care policy lead). *“Responses to the inverse care law in Scotland over the past 20 years”*

David, Andrea and Alessio had BJGP analysis article accepted for publication: *“Mental health in context: structural vulnerability and support in primary care.”* <http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/243275/>

David and Dom Patterson (Finding Fairhealth) have had an article published in Education for Primary Care: *“Training for purpose - a blueprint for social accountability and health equity focused GP training.”* Access at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34486945/>

Dying at the Margins research into the effect of poverty and deprivation on end of life care (David Blane is current DE representative on steering group). Recent publication <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/26323524211033873>

‘Preventing Drug Related Deaths: the role of primary care’ (Stewart Mercer – lead researcher; Carey Lunan – research advisory panel). Edinburgh University, funded by Drug Deaths Task Force.

‘Remote consultations in primary care: implications for health inequalities. A rapid review of current evidence’. Research carried out by Helen Lowe, SGSSS PhD Intern on secondment to Scottish Government COVID Public Health Directorate. (David Blane and Carey Lunan both interviewed, written evidence submitted by John Montgomery)

Teaching

CPD event for GPs and practice nurses by NES CPD connect on trauma informed practice in the primary care setting (Andrea Williamson)

GPST teaching about health inequalities, Deep End, inclusion health (David Blane, Anthony McMahon, Maria Duffy, Andrea Williamson)

Health inequalities and Deep End GP: Glasgow Access Programme (David Blane)

Deep End International

[June 2021 bulletin](#) can be read here. Next meeting planned for September 2021.

Media work

Requests for media work continue to rise. A number of the steering group have now had media training and a Whatsapp group has been established for this purpose. The Deep End group have made representations on TV, radio and in printed press. Topics have included the latest drug death figures, the value of face to face consulting, the capacity crisis in primary and secondary care in the context of Covid and non-Covid illness, Covid vaccine rollout, ambulance waiting times.

Other key updates

BMA Health Inequalities Toolkit and upcoming Conference

Members of the DE shared projects and examples of good practice to the UK BMA, who will be launching their new health inequalities toolkit at a conference next month, to mark the end of Harry Burns' presidency, and his focus on this area. Carey has been asked to contribute as a keynote speaker.

Inequalities in Health Alliance

Scottish DE project (and other DE groups) co-signatories on letter to UK Government to call for an explicit cross-government strategy to reduce health inequalities. Letter available [here](#)

Lothian Deprivation Interest Group (DIG)

John Budd is stepping down as DIG coordinator after 17 years, his final meeting was in September. He will be sorely missed; his leadership and inclusive approach has been an inspiration to many. Many members of DIG recently signed a letter to Edinburgh City Council on active travel for health, which highlights many of the themes in our recent roundtable event on climate change and health inequalities. It can be read [here](#)

Inclusion Health DES

This has been described in more detail in previous News updates. It is one of the key draft recommendations from the Scottish Government SLWG on Health Inequalities. These have not yet been finalised, but we hope to update at next Steering Group meeting

For interest

Stewart has shared this paper which will be of interest:

COVID-19 at the Deep End: A Qualitative Interview Study of Primary Care Staff Working in the Most Deprived Areas of England during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Accessed at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8393368/>

GP practice at Homeless Health Services in Glasgow update

After a very challenging year, there is a new GP team. Lead is Helen Richardson and the HI fellowship has been reinstated.