



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Management Board
of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health
held on Thursday 13 September 2007 at 2.00 pm
in the GCPH, Level 6, 39 St Vincent Place, Glasgow**

PRESENT

Sir John Arbuthnott	..	Chairman, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (in the Chair)
Cllr Jim Coleman	..	Deputy Leader, Glasgow City Council
Dr Linda de Caestecker	..	Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Mr Ian Manson	..	Chief Adviser to the Leader, Glasgow City Council
Prof Carol Tannahill	..	Director, Glasgow Centre for Population Health
Mr Tim Warren	..	Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate, Scottish Government

IN ATTENDANCE

Prof Chris Packard	..	University Department of Vascular Biochemistry, Glasgow Royal Infirmary (item 132)
Prof Keith Millar	..	Section of Psychological Medicine, University of Glasgow, Gartnavel Hospital (item 132)
Ms Rebecca Lenagh-Snow	..	Programme Administrator, Glasgow Centre for Population Health

ACTION BY

132. pSoBid

Professors Chris Packard and Keith Millar were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Prof Packard gave a presentation on the initial biological findings from pSoBid, followed by Prof Millar presenting the initial findings on psychological traits and cognition.

Overall, the board found the presentation and findings extremely interesting. Discussion of the findings and possible implications of these ensued. Issues/points raised were:

- The possibility of bias in the self-selecting sample was raised and Prof Packard stated that the team will be comparing key GPASS variables for those who were invited against those who turned up to check this.
- Though the overall health of Scotland has improved, the gap between more and less deprived communities has remained and is actually widening.
- There was a query regarding the impact of smoking in light of the recent news stories on the positive impact of the ban. This to be further investigated by the pSoBid team.

pSoBid team

- It was agreed that some of the findings are quite surprising and that there was a need for very careful handling and reporting of them to try and avoid if possible their being misrepresented or sensationalised by the media.
- It is proposed that the pSoBid team will discuss and analyse the findings over the next few months, with a scientific meeting planned for early 2008. A more in-depth reporting plan and proposed key messages/headline findings will be provided for the next meeting of the Management Board.
- It was agreed also to look at the findings for evidence of positive deviance – individuals whose health is better than expected given the norm for their group.
- Members emphasised that the original impetus propelling the research was to improve population health and especially to reduce health inequalities. Care should be taken to make the pathways from psycho-social factors to ill health clear as some of the data could be confusing. It would be important to distil policy implications.
- It was suggested by the Chair that an informal group could be formed to react to and question the findings before their release. This ‘testing out’ of the findings could help ensure that they were comprehensible to a layman. This idea was agreed, to be taken forward by Prof Tannahill and Dr de Caestecker.
- It was felt that further exploration was needed of the extent to which the cognitive function results could be explained by years in education and/or educational attainment.
- It was emphasised that one of the important points about the research was that it was a multi-disciplinary effort and that it would be very good if the response to the findings was one that crossed the disciplines as well. It was noted that the findings would lead to two sets of recommendations: (i) for policy and (ii) for further research.

Prof Tannahill

pSoBid team

*Prof Tannahill,
Dr de Caestecker*

pSoBid team

133. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted from Prof Phil Beaumont, Professor of Employment Relations, University of Glasgow; Prof Margaret Reid, Professor of Women’s Health, University of Glasgow; and Prof David Barlow, Dean of Medicine, University of Glasgow. Although this meant the Board was not quorate, it was agreed the meeting would go ahead. Tim Warren attended, representing Mrs Pam Whittle, Public Health & Wellbeing Directorate, Scottish Government.

134. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2007 were approved as a correct record.

135. MATTERS ARISING

Item 121 – Linsay Gray’s report was launched on 20th July and secured good media coverage.

Item 125/iv – Prof Tannahill and Shona Stephen met with Gerry Hassan to discuss concerns regarding the Glasgow 2020 press release. Mr Hassan is now planning to organise a meeting of all the sponsors of the project to help facilitate handling of the report’s findings.

Item 127 – Valerie Millar will meet with the communications teams of partner organisations in October, and will report back to the next Management Board meeting.

Ms Millar

On behalf of Prof Reid, Prof Tannahill informed the Board that the University had offered to host a seminar in the Spring, drawing together the various programmes that had been initiated through the Centre involving University researchers from different faculties. In addition, the University had kindly agreed to host a dinner on 12 November, to recognise Sir John's vision and leadership. All were asked to note this date.

All

136. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A report from the Director [GCPHMB/2007/64] had been circulated, updating members on progress since the last meeting. Specific reference/note was made to the following:

Par. 8 City Strategy (Glasgow Works)

A useful meeting about the City Strategy was held in July and a paper will be going to the Glasgow Works Board on the possible contribution of the Incapacity Benefit analysis to the monitoring of the strategy.

Par. 9 City-level collaboration

The tri-city collaboration workshop in July was felt to be very useful and an interesting learning experience. Prof Tannahill has been pursuing some points with Dr Sue Atkinson (from London – previously health advisor to Ken Livingstone) and Dr Atkinson will be meeting with Cllr Purcell when next in Glasgow.

Par. 10 Index of Success seminar

A lunchtime seminar will be held on 19 September to discuss this, and to explore the possibility of creating an Index of Progress.

Par. 19 Centre review

Jennifer Waterton has been commissioned to manage the review which will be initiated in October and will run to March 2008. An initiation meeting is being held with the Scottish Government in October.

Par. 20 Shona Robison

The Chair and Director will be meeting with Ms Robison on 25 September to discuss the Centre's work.

Par. 22 Ministerial Task Force

Prof Tannahill has been asked to join this task force, as one of a small number of non-Ministerial members. The first meeting is on 3 October.

137. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A report from the Director [GCPHMB/2006/65] had been circulated.

This statement shows the centre now running at full planned capacity, with all the balance having been allocated.

The programme managers have received their new Agenda for Change banding and Prof Tannahill reported that the result for salaries does not differ significantly from predicted.

138. FUTURE DIRECTION

In light of the upcoming review, Prof Tannahill gave a presentation on the current status of the centre and its impact so far, and on what its future remit and direction could be. She invited discussion of these ideas from the Board. Output from this discussion was noted and will be used to shape the documentation provided for the Centre's review and forward business plan.

Prof Tannahill

139. AOB

As this was Sir John's last meeting, members expressed their sincere thanks for his leadership and wished him very well for the future.

140. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 11 December at 2.00 pm at the GCPH.