**PH Mortality Special Interest Group**

**25th August 2pm-3.30pm**

**Via Zoom Video Conference**

**Chair: Colin Fischbacher**

**Attendees**

Colin Fischbacher (CF) NSS – Chair

Denise McHugh-(DM) ScotPHN

Christina Wraw-(CW) Public Health Scotland

Liz Richardson-(LR) Public Health Scotland

Alister Hooke-

Clare Campbell (CC) NHS Fife

Louise Wilson (LW) NHS Orkney

Ann Conacher (AC) ScotPHN

Gerry McCartney (GM) Public Health Scotland

Fred Nimmo (FN) NHS Grampian

Marlene McMillan (MMcM) NHS A&A

Jon Minton (JM) Public Health Scotland

Julie Ramsay (JR) NRS

Sarah Wild (SW) Edinburgh University

David Walsh (DW) GCPH

**Apologies**

Ellie Hothersall (EH), NHS Tayside

Joe Schofield (JS) Stirling University

Rodrick Duncan (RD) Scottish Government

Carolyn Hunter Rowe (CHR)

Lynda Fenton (LF) Public Health Scotland

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item** | **Action/Comments** | **Resp.** |
| 1. **Welcome** | CF welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| **2.Note/actions from last meeting (27th April 2020)** | **Note**  Group agreed the note as an accurate account of the meeting.  **Actions arising**  GM had agreed to follow up with colleagues at the Death Certificate Review Service within HIS, as they were receiving an unusually high number of queries relating to death certificates issued, from the conversations it was unlikely a substantial amount of under reporting of COVID-19. GM stated that he, LF and DW had been liaising with colleagues at the Review Service about using the existing service to ask more pertinent questions to establish if the excess deaths were COVID-19 or because of the unintended consequences of the lockdown (health service access, social health etc.) The advice from the Scottish Government is that they are not keen to use the existing service for this purpose, however SG colleagues would be content for us to work with them on a research project. This would be very involved with regards to timescales and resource. DW has agreed to draft up a proposal/options paper. GM will update at next meeting if there is further progress. | GM |
| **3.**  **Covid-19 Mortality Work and Progress** | ***Service Pressures –Christina Wraw***  CW explained that the aim of the research was to measure the impact that changes to spending on health and social care have on recent Mortality trends. CW talked the group through the presentation (attached) then asked if there were any questions.    DW mentioned if the study in England (Watkins) which showed a relationship for health and social care spending cuts on the over 60’s, DW asked if the methods were comparable. CW said she would check and let him know.  AH asked if the results were weighted by population, JM said that they had taken a decision to use unweighted values.  CW said that this was the first time presenting and discussing the results and was happy for anyone to contact her if they have any other comments or feedback on the analysis. [christina.wraw@nhs.net](mailto:christina.wraw@nhs.net)  ***Deprivation/Rurality and Covid-19 –Liz Richardson***  LR presented the report and informed the group that she has worked on this report with GM and lead by Andy Pullford.  *The objective of this report is to investigate why some areas of Scotland have thus far experienced higher mortality from COVID-19 than others, specifically considering the role of remoteness and rurality, income deprivation, household overcrowding, and the timing of the first COVID-19 death. The role of ethnicity and clinical risk factors have been the subject of other, specific studies and we do not consider them further here*.  LR stated that they hoped that the repot would be ready to be published by September 2020 and if anyone had any comments she would be happy for them to contact her.  [elizabeth.richardson1@nhs.net](mailto:elizabeth.richardson1@nhs.net)  ***Group Updates***  **Julie Ramsay**  JR informed the group that there has been an announcement to say that hopefully the (delayed) breakdown causes of death for 2019 will be published in November 2020 and the drug deaths figures published in December 2020. The data set will be available then too.  **Gerry McCartney**  GM informed the group that LR has been working on a paper on tax benefit changes in III, the paper is at peer review and should be published soon.  GM said work was being carried out around a paper “Scaling COVID-19 Against Health Inequalities”- A high level strategy being employed to exit the current situation (elimination strategy, contact tracing strategy, herd immunity strategy). The paper is cleared internally and will be online in due course. The next step will be to quantify the risk benefits, calculations to help form decisions around the whole repair strategy.  **Alister Hooke**  AH updated the group around work with enhanced surveillance cell, and if they get the permission to go ahead with it will be leading on the project swabbing corpses in funeral homes to get better assessment of COVID-19 mortality. |  |
| **4.PHP5 Update** | GM informed the group that there is now an established network around PHP5 (Sustainable and Inclusive Economy network) The network is co-ordinated by ScotPHN on behalf of The Scottish Directors of Public Health. The work is between Public Health Scotland and Public Health colleagues across the territorial boards.  It is a two way dialogue between evidence, data and work we might do. Understanding the needs of local areas, sharing what good practice is being carried out locally and sharing that. It will also provide a conduit to Scottish Government. GM said if anyone was interested in being part of the network to contact him. |  |
| **5.AOB** | Jon Minton  JM informed the group about “COVID Age” This is something Scottish Government are looking at as part of occupational risk assessment: The data source that is used is to take someone’s age, sex, other various risk factors and one important demographic risk factor in order to come up with a “COVID Age” Possibly different organisations could use as part of an occupational health process. |  |
| **6.DONM** | 2021 Dates:  TBC |  |
| **7.Close** | CF thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting. |  |