

Sustainable Development Special Interest Group

7 August 2017

Meeting notes

1. Welcome & introductions

Present:

Jeremy Wight (Chair) (JW)

Helen Ross (Outgoing chair) (HW)

Amanda Donnelly (Soil Association) (AD)

David Pencheon (Sustainable Development Unit) (DP)

Paul Southon (PS)

Steven Marks (via phone) (SM)

Emily Stevenson (via phone – UK public health registrar's sustainability group) (ES)

Jenny Griffiths (via phone) (JG)

2. Governance

There was discussion of how the SIG reports to the FPH board via the Health Improvement Committee. The communication needs to work in both directions, with the SIG reporting to, and supporting the FPH priorities, and with the SIG influencing the wider FPH to ensure sustainability is built into all the work of the faculty. There are SIG members who also sit on the FPH board, and Sue Atwell is the FPH board champion for the SIG.

The SIG needs to provide an annual workplan to the HI Committee by the end of August.

A meeting of all FPH SIG chairs is being planned for later in the year, no firm details available yet.

All external communication from the SIG which may involve the press must go via the FPGH press office.

The SIG currently has a membership of around 60 (based on email database held by the chair). Within this wider membership there is a smaller core group that is actively involved in the organisation of the SIG. It was agreed that there needs to be more clarity in this arrangement, with an identified SIG steering group supporting the work of the wider membership. All members are free to contribute to the work of the steering group, and individual members may be co-opted into the steering group for specific work areas.

Actions:

- Chair to email all SIG members asking who would want to be a member of a smaller SIG steering group (**JW**).
- Database of SIG members to be developed – identifying members by geography, areas of expertise and experience (**DP**). This will need to be compliant with data protection, and align to the development of the wider FPH membership database. (**HR & JW**)

3. Alignment with other organisations / networks

The relationship between the SIG and external organisations and networks will be dependent on agreement of the SIG workplan. The key principle is that 'form must follow function', any investment in networking, relationship building and co-delivery will need to support delivery of the SIG workplan priorities.

The relationships between the SIG and current / potential partner organisations and networks need to be mapped. This will be based on the SIG workplan, and will identify essential, important and optional relationships. The level of investment (time, resources) will be matched to how they support the SIG workplan priorities, or future development of the SIG.

There was discussion of existing and potential networks. This includes the UK Health Alliance for Climate Change, where there are existing formal links and cross-membership.

There was discussion of a proposal for SIG / FPH involvement in a conference being organised by the Institute of Applied Biologists in autumn 2018. The conference will be on Farming, Food, Dietary Health and the Environment. The type and level of involvement in the conference still needs to be clarified. Potentially, this could be providing speakers, formal FPH support (through use of logo), financial support. The key question was whether this would support the delivery of the SIG workplan.

Actions:

- Once the SIG workplan is agreed – current and potential relationships with relevant external organisations to be mapped. (***Did we agree a lead for coordinating this work?***)
- Details of the IAB conference to be circulated to all SIG members and to the FPH board when available.

4. Review of progress

5. Development of workplan 2017 to 2020

These two items were discussed together.

Workplan 1 – 5 relate to the production of factsheets and resources supporting public health professionals and wider partners in sustainable development. There was discussion of the purpose of these factsheets, and that they need to reflect the current position of public health, including the changing position and role of public health in local government.

The central role of the FPH is in developing and maintaining professional standards and competencies. The factsheets need to support public health registrars and supervisors in meeting the training competencies, specifically 5.7, but also in building sustainability into all their work. This includes the sort of projects trainees could be involved in and what would constitute appropriate evidence of competency. There was discussion of emerging

opportunities, e.g. placements in external organisations (such as the Soil Association), and ensuring appropriate levels of project work and evidence.

There are a wide range of existing resources and factsheets from different organisations and sectors. Local government has been directly involved in sustainability for some time. The aim should be to build on existing resources and relationships, linking to relevant resources and websites. This is an engagement opportunity for the SIG and the FPH, working with the key organisations that can influence the key players in sustainability (e.g. LGA, RTPI, SDU).

It was agreed that the workplan for 2017-2018 will specify a limited number of factsheets to be produced in the first year, focusing on supporting trainees and supervisors in meeting sustainability competencies.

Action:

JG to coordinate the production of factsheets. Further conversations will be needed to agree topics and content of initial factsheets.

Workplan 6: Develop good practice guidance. This has been progressed through the registrars group. An online survey of registrars has been completed, this closed at the end of July 2017. The results of the survey are being collated and analysed over the next month and will be shared when complete.

Action:

ES to share results and recommendations from the survey when complete.

Workplan 7: SIG business plan. This was a requirement when the SIG was first established. This will now be incorporated into the workplan for the SIG.

Workplan 8: Development of the SIG. All present agreed that the SIG has developed well and is now in a position to influence and to drive change. The group thanked **HR** for her hard work and persistence that has been instrumental in delivering this level of success.

Workplan 9: Workshop to develop a workplan. Some of this was done through the FPH conference 2017. There was discussion of whether a whole SIG workshop would be beneficial or whether this could be achieved through other routes. This was further discussed as part of agenda item 7 (meeting programme 2017 – 2020)

Future workplan: The key questions are;

- What is the SIG going to do internally, influencing within the FPH?
- What is the SIG going to do externally – what will be delivered with, and through, external partners?

The workplan has to have a strapline which is agreed by the whole membership and which states, very clearly, what will be achieved over 2017-2018 (and over a longer period?)

The future workplan will include outcomes for communications and engagement. The SIG needs to be 'highly catalytic' and influence key partners and networks. There needs to be a

regular communication route out to all SIG members which pulls in information and resources from other networks and sectors. This will include;

- The opportunities from the annual FPH conference
- Identifying and making use of other communication networks, e.g. PH.com

PS currently produces a weekly update covering a wide range of topics. This approach could be adapted to produce a monthly update for the SIG. Based around a review of news and hot topics, but potentially with opportunities for blog and comment content from SIG members / external partners. PS offered to share the horizon scanning approach developed for his weekly update email.

There was discussion of SIG sub-group. Currently there is a food sub-group. It was agreed that rather than developing formal governance for sub-groups, it would be more beneficial to us a catalytic approach. Identify and link members with specific areas of interest and expertise and give them the autonomy to develop topic specific work and report back to the SIG.

Action:

HR and JG to develop a draft workplan for circulation and comment from SIG members. Final workplan to be completed for submission to the Health Improvement Committee by the end of August.

6. Communication

This had been discussed as part of the workplan and will be developed through development of the future workplan.

7. Meeting programme 2017 to 2020

It is becoming more difficult for people to get away from the office for meetings. The FPH is a UK organisation, so any meeting programme must provide equal opportunities across all four nations.

The SIG needs to reflect the different structures and arrangements for public health in each of the four nations.

Need to identify contacts in local areas / national public health in all areas. The UK Healthy City Network may be able to help with contacts.

Agreed – a meeting plan will be developed to cover 2017 to 2020. There will be an annual face to face meeting (at the FPH conference). Other meetings to be quarterly via teleconference & Skype.

Action:

HR / JW to send out a doodle poll for next meeting (Late October/ early November). Also, to send out dates for quarterly meetings for the next 3 years.

PS to contact the UK Healthy City network to identify possible contacts in all four nations via their networks.

8. AOB

PS reported that he has been approached about developing a healthy spatial planning SIG. The workstreams for this SIG would have synergies with the SD SIG workplan and would include building sustainability into spatial planning.

9. Date & time for next meeting

Late October / early November, Doodle Poll to be sent out.