

27th November 2019 Academic Forum – teleconference

In attendance

- Dr Joanne Crawford, IOM
- Michael Whitmore – RAND
- Professor Kim Burton – University of Huddersfield
- Professor Sarah Connolly – UEA
- Professor Kevin Daniels – UEA
- Professor Andrew Curran – Chief Scientific Adviser HSE
- Dr Ira Madan – Reader at Kings College
- Dr Elaine Wainwright– Bath Spa
- Nick Pahl – CEO of SOM
- Dr Rosemary Hollick – Aberdeen
- Dr Maria Karanika-Murray- Nottingham Trent University
- Professor Ewan MacDonald Glasgow University – chair
- Professor Martie. J. Van-Tongeren – Manchester University

1 Centre for work and health

Ewan said there was a project group chaired by Sir Mansell Aylward, Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, Dr Ira Madan, Nick Pahl, Professor Karen Walker Bone and himself. he talked through advocacy with Nick and him to ESRC, Wellcome and the DWP. The aim was to produce an agile funded collaboration creating greater linkage with groups in this area. The concept note was received well and the meeting congratulated Ewan on activity so far.

Ewan said the aim was a transparent approach to development of the centre for work and health and opportunities to discuss with other stakeholders about the centre were welcome

The Contact point at DWP was noted - Bola Akinwale

Prof Andrew Curran stated that HSE would seek funding (with other Government partners) through any future call under the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF).

Action – Ewan and Nick to keep Academic Forum updated with the offer of stakeholder discussions open

2 Data linkage

Noted that some academics were finding it easier to get permission for linkage than others, but it does take time and perseverance.

Dr Ira Madan said her team had achieved data linkage between the Maudsley, DWP and Department of Education and GP practices.

Collaboration had also occurred in data between Scotland and Wales for MSK and Census data around mental health and work and linked to primary care data. No link had been achieved with the DWP yet – in progress

Ewan said DWP is aiming to linking DWP to health data at the University of Glasgow, but this had not been achieved

Suggested action -Prof Andrew Curran to raise with Chief Scientific Adviser group

3 Early Career pathways

All agreed Funding needed for PhD students to develop a career pathway in occupational health research and that it was a challenge to get funding – although this existing from NIHR and Colt Foundation

There was an update from Manchester University, who had approx. 25 MSc. Students working in occupational health. However, there is pressure from within the University to increase the numbers in particular to increase number of the overseas to ensure the course is sustainable.

Dr Ira Madan said the Colt Foundation were looking for candidates those who become professors in the future.

It was noted that Academic OH centres such as in Finland had considerably more funding

Action – all to encourage PhD students to apply for Colt Funding and advocacy to continue for investment in academic occupational health.

4 Research priorities day

Dr Ira Madan outlined the day which was praised as well led and facilitated and a good exercise to do regularly.

Ira said the research questions were useful for funders e.g. NIHR

Prof Andrew Curran said a similar exercise had been undertaken by HSE, and other Government Departments. The outputs are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/areas-of-research-interest>

Action- agreed be useful to do mapping of HSE and DWP/DHSC and Academic Forum research priorities

Action – tbc – Work and Health Unit

5 AOB

No other business