



REMOTE AND RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE WORKING GROUP

BULLETIN NO₁ – SEPTEMBER 2018

The Remote and Rural General Practice Working Group (SLWG) met for the second time on Wednesday 12th September 2018, at the Centre for Health Sciences in Inverness, Highland. The group members include the British Medical Association, Royal College of General Practitioners, Rural GP Association (RGPAS), Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative, Scottish Government, NHS Boards, Integration Authorities and patient representation. The group is chaired by Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie, University of Aberdeen and Medical Advisor, Scottish Government. Full membership of the group is listed in Annex 1.

Working Group Terms of Reference

At the meeting the Group agreed its terms of reference and remit as:

- To engage with and seek the views of stakeholders involved in developing and implementing Primary Care Improvement Plans in rural areas, to gather learning of best practice, and emerging opportunities and challenges.
- Provide advice and support to Integration Authorities on the implementation of the 2018 GMS Contract and Memorandum of Understanding in remote and rural areas.
- Consider and provide advice and recommendations to the Scottish Government on any issues which are thought to affect / have been stated to affect the implementation of primary care redesign and Phase 1 in rural areas, in line with the development of Integration Authorities Primary Care Improvement Plans and NHS Boards.
- Provide advice to the Scottish Government and Scottish General Practitioners Committee (SGPC) of the BMA on ways to ensure that remote and rural practices can fully benefit from the changes in the new 2018 GMS contract.
- The prime focus will be on daytime GMS/PMS provision. Wider rural issues, affecting both in and out of hours may be considered in due course.

The Group also noted that the following is out with its scope:

- Recommending any changes to existing national contracts between Health Boards and individual practices. These can only be changed by the mechanisms set out in the relevant GMS or PMS regulations.
- Negotiations between the Scottish Government and Scottish General Practitioners Committee towards Phase Two of the Contract are out of scope, unless input on a specific matter is requested jointly by the SG and SGPC.

Actions

- Communication Plan – the group agreed a Communication Plan. Transparency of the group's discussions, and effective communication to all stakeholders as soon as possible were agreed as key priorities. The importance of engaging with patients was agreed and proposals are to be presented to the group for consideration at the next meeting. A variety of media options would be pursued, including developing a Rural Group website, regular bulletins, and utilising social media.
- Engagement Programme – In order to meet with and hear the views of colleagues and the public, Professor Ritchie and Fiona Duff have already visited a number of remote and rural practices (see below). Further visits are being planned to meet practice staff, public representatives, and Health Board and Integration Authority staff in rural communities.
- Risk Register – This has been established to underpin the work of the group. A lack of multidisciplinary team (MDT) representation on the group was identified and the group has agreed to expand its membership to include representatives from multidisciplinary clinicians as soon as possible.
- Dispensing – the group welcomed the establishment of a Dispensing Short Life Working group, which will be chaired by Fiona Duff, Senior Advisor, Scottish Government.
- Work Plan – In addition to the engagement/ visitation programme, remote and rural case studies from across Scotland will be gathered. These will share examples, learning and good practice on how the six contract priority areas are being taken forward: Vaccinations, Community Treatment and Care services, Pharmacotherapy, Urgent Care, Physiotherapy and other health professionals, Mental Health and Community Link Workers.
- Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative (SRMC) - Ralph Roberts, Chair and Martine Scott, Programme Manager presented on the work of the **Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative** (SRMC). SRMC is a collaboration of 10 rural Health Boards, working together to support the recruitment and retention of rural GPs and members of the multi-disciplinary team to rural areas. One piece of work that SRMC has been very involved with has been the development of the GP Jobs Website, which will be launched at the RCGP Conference in Glasgow on 3rd October. Further information is available at <https://gpjobs.scot/> Further information about SRMC can be found in their most recent newsletter. <https://www.srmc.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SRMC-AUTUMN-2018.pdf> or follow them on Twitter @NHS_SRMC

Next Meetings

Future meetings are planned for December 2018, March 2019 and June 2019.

The full terms of reference, and other papers for this and subsequent meetings, will be made available on the web as soon as possible.

Rural Engagement

As chair of the Rural Group, Sir Lewis Ritchie has been out and about visiting rural practices and engaging with colleagues and patients to hear their views on the new GP Contract.

On 10th and 11th September he visited practices in Argyll & Bute HSCP and North Highland HSCP with Fiona Duff, Senior Advisor, Primary Care Division, Scottish Government.

Follow the work of the group on Twitter @SG_PrimaryCare



Thank you to colleagues at Tighnabruaich Health Centre, Taynuilt Medical Practice, Easdale Medical Practice, Craig Nevis Medical Practice Fort William, Mallaig Medical Practice and Fort Augustus Medical Practice for their kindness, time and hospitality. Thanks also to Joyce Robinson and Evan Beswick, NHS Highland for helping to facilitate these visits.

Professor Ritchie, a RNLI enthusiast, has also visited colleagues on the Isle of Arran where he welcomed a trip out on the Arran Lifeboat based at Lamlash, RNLI *Rachael Hedderwick*. Grateful thanks to Dr David Hogg for organising this and all colleagues he met on Arran.

Do you want to get involved with the Rural SLWG? Do you have a view or a comment you want the group to be aware of? Is there a great initiative in your area that would be an excellent case study? Would you like Sir Lewis or other members of the team to visit your practice? Please contact us on PCRural@gov.scot

RGPAS Conference - Are you a GP who works in or is interested in rural General Practice. The Rural GP Association (RGPAS) is holding its Annual Conference in Inverness, 8th – 10th November 2018, Craigmonie Hotel, Inverness. Further information is available: <http://ruralgp.com/2018/09/rgpas18-conference-registration-now-open/>

Annex 1

Membership of the Remote and Rural General Practice Short Life Working Group

- Sir Lewis Ritchie, Chair, Mackenzie Professor of General Practice University of Aberdeen, Medical Advisor Scottish Government
- Colin Angus Chair, Patient Representatives, P3 group, RCGP
- Dr Jonathan Ball, GP NHS Highland
- Dr Hugh Brown, GP NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- Dr Andrew Buist, Chair, SGPC, GP NHS Tayside
- Dr Andrew Cowie, Deputy Chair, SGPC, GP NHS Tayside
- Dr Paul Davidson, NHS Highland Associate Medical Director (GP NHS Highland)
- Fiona Duff, Senior Adviser, Scottish Government
- Dr Charles Dunnett, GP NHS Dumfries & Galloway
- Richard Foggo, Deputy Director and Head of Primary Care, Scottish Government
- Pamela Gowans, Chief Officer, Moray Health and Social Care Partnership
- Dr David Hogg, Chair, Rural GP Association of Scotland (RGPAS; GP NHS Ayrshire & Arran)
- Dr Denise McFarlane, GP NHS Grampian
- Dr Brian Michie, GP, NHS Western Isles
- Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland and Chair, Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative
- Joyce Robinson, Argyll and Bute Primary Care Lead
- Dr Kirsty Robinson, GP, NHS Borders
- Dr Charlie Siderfin, GP NHS Orkney, Medical Advisor, Scottish Government
- Dr Emma Watson, Senior Medical Officer, Workforce, Scottish Government, Director of Medical Education, NHS Highland
- Dr Tony Wilkinsom, GP, NHS Orkney
- Dr Chris Williams, RCGP Scotland Representative