



The October newsletter brings together details of a range of projects that SWHIN members are currently engaged in. They include a brief report of the Stockholm conference where SWHIN members alongside David Jones and Rory Truell from IFSW were successful in inviting Professor Michael Marmot to give a plenary presentation. The newsletter also gives details of the Los Angeles conference, a meeting on the Global Agenda, contribution to the IHE consultation, the development of a curriculum guide and strategic issues and future plans. We think you will agree that the network is a vibrant way of collaborating to promote social justice and equality.

Joint World Social Work and Social Development Conference Stockholm 8-12 July 2012

There was an excellent presence of SWHIN members at the conference. The highlights included a presentation on Social Work and Health Inequalities by Professor Sir Michael Marmot to a plenary of over 1,000 delegates where he said that health inequalities are 'bread and butter' for social workers and invited delegates to foster a movement. SWHIN was acknowledged by him in securing his invitation. His speech is available to view via this link:

http://swsd2012.creo.tv/tuesday/michael_marmot/d3p2-michael_marmot

We held a symposium on migration and presented papers on the social work curriculum and on conceptualising health inequalities. The following members presented papers: Rosalee Pockett, Tuula Heinonen, Beena Thomas, Peter Duncan, Eva Moya, Malcolm Payne, Lucia Garcia, Blanca Ramos, Christa Fouche, Mark Henrikson, Paul Bywaters, Varda Soskolne, Shulamit Ramon, Peter Beresford, Neil Quinn, Agnes Law, Kate Karban, Julie Fish (apologies if I have inadvertently missed you from the list). Twenty members met informally at a meal at the Rica Talk hotel on the Tuesday evening.

Social Work In Health and Mental Health 2013 Conference at University of Southern California, Los Angeles

Kate has led the planning for the SWHIN presence at Los Angeles. Four symposia are nearly finalised for the conference: indigenous health, mental health and wellbeing, health inequalities in the social work curriculum and LGBT health inequalities. The conference organisers have also been approached about Eva Moya's exhibition. The submission date for abstracts for individual presenters is February 2013, please submit an abstract and join us at the conference. Details of the conference can be found here: <http://pathways2013.com/>

Global Agenda for Social Work meeting November 2nd 2012

We have received an invitation from Janet Williams, the Chair of the Joint University Committee on Social Work Education to present priorities for taking forward the Global Agenda at a meeting in London on November 2nd.

The Institute of Health Equity: consultation on the role of the health workforce in taking action on the social determinants of health.

Paul led the writing of the social work and social care annexe for this consultation and we are seeking a stronger reference to the social work workforce in the main document.

The College of Social Work curriculum guide on physical health, dementia and end of life care (EOLC).

As part of the reforms of the social work curriculum in England, The College of Social Work (TCSW) has commissioned a series of curriculum guides. Julie has recently completed the guide on physical health, dementia and EOLC which incorporates a health inequalities/ social determinants of health perspective. Thanks to those of you from the network that contributed to its formulation (it went through 8 drafts in all to incorporate the range of perspectives). This will be posted on TCSW website shortly <http://www.collegeofsocialwork.org/>

Strategic issues and future planning

a) Development of strands

One of the very positive aspects of SWHIN is the opportunity to make contact with people with similar interests and expertise. This has been particularly evident in the recent work to

develop themed symposia for the 2013 Social Work, Health & Mental Health Conference in Los Angeles. Four themes have emerged to support this as follows:

- Health of indigenous groups
- LGBT health and health inequalities
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Embedding social work and health inequalities in the curriculum

These areas were discussed by members attending the IFSW / IASSW/ ICSW conference in Stockholm this year and have the potential as the foundations for more on-going sub-groups within the network. These groups could be led by preferably two people and could play an important part in addressing specific issues within and outside the network. There could also be enhanced opportunities for collaborative developments in research or practice developments.

Initially up to 6 groups or themes could be established and we would like to invite suggestions for themes in addition to those listed above. The intention would be to work to firm this up over the next few months and to explore how this might work most effectively.

Please contact Kate with suggestions of a theme you would like to lead:

k.karban@bradford.ac.uk

b) *Social media*

At the executive committee meeting in October, we discussed the potential of social media including Facebook, blogs and twitter to extend the reach of the network although we recognised this would need someone to have more time and expertise that we have at present.

c) *Target for new network members*

We would like to increase the current membership of the network from 300 current members to 5,000 international members which currently includes academics, social workers, social care practitioners and others with an interest in developing social work's contribution to tackling health inequalities. We would like to target social work students for recruitment to the network through academic members.

Julie Fish

Kate Karban

Paul Bywaters

Eileen Mcleod

October 2012