



SGSSS-NHS HEALTH SCOTLAND INTERNSHIP SCHEME

2018 **DEADLINE: 5pm on Wednesday 31st January 2018**

INTERNSHIP 1:

Socio-economic associations in Scottish Children's Oral health behaviours: Evidence from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) surveys. (*Short version title; 'HBSC dental findings'*)

Organisation Background

NHS Health Scotland is a Special Health Board in NHS Scotland. We work to reduce health inequalities and improve health through:

- Linking together experts from across Scotland to tackle the biggest issues in achieving the right to good health
- Compiling world class evidence and research to further Scotland's understanding of health inequalities
- Influencing policy makers at all levels to design targeted interventions to help build a fairer healthier Scotland

In addition to the project specific work and opportunities detailed below, interns with Health Scotland can expect to have the opportunity to take part in team meetings and internal public health development sessions. They will gain an understanding of what Health Scotland does, how we work and what it is like to work here.

Project background

Aim

To elucidate socio-economic factors and trends associated with reported oral health actions in the Scottish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children data series, which has been collected every 4 years since 1990.

Methods

A multi-level regression modelling approach will be used with the existing rich HBSC

Scotland database to 1) identify associations between socio-economic factors and oral health behaviour, 2) track changes over time in oral health behaviour and 3) identify whether there has been change over time in any association between oral health behaviour and socio-economic factors. There will also be opportunities to engage with the international HBSC network, which involves over 40 countries in Europe and North America.

Outputs

1. Statistical evaluation of reported socio-economic factors associated with oral health actions from the Health Behaviours in School Children.

- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) tertiles/quintiles
- Family affluence scale (FAS)
- School-level indicators of socioeconomic status (e.g., free school meal eligibility).

2. Producing draft reports for publication on socio-economic factors associated with oral health behaviour in Scottish Schoolchildren.

3. Produce and present posters and talks for scientific conferences on socio-economic factors associated with oral health behaviour in Scottish Schoolchildren.

Skills required

Data cleansing, analysis, infographics and statistical testing. Writing and presentation skills. Self-motivated.

Support provided

Expert dental public health advice from the NHS Health Scotland Consultant in Dental Public Health.

Expert evidence advice from the NHS Health Scotland Public health Intelligence adviser.

Statistical support as required.

Opportunities

Interrogation of the national Health Behaviour in School-aged Children database to elucidate socio-economic factors and trends associated with positive oral health actions.

Presentation of the results at national and international conferences.

Publication of the results in peer reviewed journals.

Start date: Flexible



SGSSS-NHS HEALTH SCOTLAND INTERNSHIP SCHEME 2018

DEADLINE: 5pm on Wednesday 24th January 2018

INTERNSHIP 2:

Development of Guidance for Analysing Place Standard Data

Organisation Background

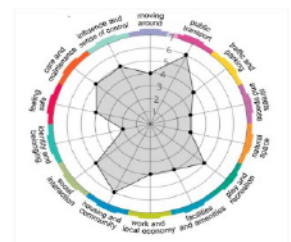
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Project background

The [Place Standard tool](#) provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It allows the participant to think about 14 separate themes covering both the physical elements of a place (e.g. its buildings, spaces, and transport links) as well as the social aspects (e.g. whether people feel they have a say in decision making). The user is asked to score each of the themes on a scale of 1 (bad) to 7 (good) and is given the opportunity to explain the reason for their score. As such the tool collects both quantitative and qualitative information for each of the 14 themes. When all 14



questions have been completed, the quantitative results are shown in a simple spider diagram (image shown).

The Place Standard was formally launched in December 2016 and is being used extensively across Scotland. Latest analysis show over 60 instances of it being used, reaching over 10,000 individuals across 22 local authorities. In addition, 5 case studies have been followed and analysed in detail to assess a range of issues related to implementation. (Further details can be found [here](#).)

It has become apparent through the initial period of implementation that analysis of the qualitative data generated by the tool is a potential challenge for users. Both the volume of data collected and the skills required to effectively analyse this have proved challenging. For example, in Shetland 939 responses to the Place Standard were generated, with 4,840 comments included across the 14 different Place Standard themes.

Implementation leads have requested further support and guidance around the data analysis stages, particularly in reference to analysing the qualitative data, and integrating the qualitative and quantitative data to provide an understanding of place-based priorities. There is an opportunity for a PhD intern to be part of this work.

Aim

The aim of this work is to develop guidance for: gathering and analysing the qualitative data collected using the Place Standard; managing large volumes of simple quantitative data; and integrating findings from mixed methods.

Methods

The first stage would be to assess whether resources are already available to support the analysis of the kinds of data gathered using the Place Standard by people working in non-academic, non-research settings. The second stage would be to identify a specific area that is embarking on using the Place Standard tool (for example, a local authority or community group). The researcher would be involved in the implementation of the Place Standard and contribute to the data analysis process. The researcher would document lessons learned from the analysis process and use this information, alongside their existing data analysis expertise, to develop the guidance. As part of the process, there would be stakeholder engagement and consultation exercises to ensure that any guidance developed suited the 'user groups' needs.

Outputs

This work will help to identify existing resources that are available to support this process and the production guidance on how to analyse the data generated using the Place Standard. Based on the outcomes of this work, the researcher will advise the Health Scotland staff on options to implement the guidance. The guidance should be developed acknowledging the importance of scientific rigour in qualitative research, but also recognising that such approaches need to be accessible for different user groups (e.g. the community).

Skills required

It is essential that the researcher has some experience of qualitative data analysis and experience with managing quantitative data using simple analytical techniques (e.g. mean, range, proportions etc.) Good communication and interpersonal skills are desirable for the

post as there will be engagement with other organisations and stakeholders as part of the process.

Support provided

The researcher will lead on this work, drawing on support and guidance from a Public Health Intelligence Adviser in the Evaluation Team in the Directorate of Public Health Sciences and others as requested. There will be catch up meetings every 1-2 weeks to discuss progress and ideas.

Opportunities

This presents an exciting opportunity to work on the Place Standard, which has been a key focus of Health Scotland's recent work. The researcher will gain insights into the opportunities and challenges in using rigorous research methods in applied policy and service development contexts. They will also have the opportunity to attend team meetings and relevant events to gain further insight into the work of NHS Health Scotland.

Start date: February 2018.