

# STEERING GROUP

## Minutes



**Date** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 **Time** ~~13.00—15.00~~ 12.00 – 13.00 (meeting moved and shortened due to adverse weather conditions)

**Chair** Catriona Matheson **Location** ~~Scottish Drug Forum~~ Teleconference

### Membership

Name	Organisation	Attendance
Catriona Matheson (Chair)	DRNS Convenor	Y
Tessa Parkes	University of Stirling, DRNS Deputy Convenor	Y
Aileen O’Gorman	University of the West of Scotland	Apols
Alexander Baldacchino	University of St Andrews and NHS Fife	Apols
Alison Munro	University of Dundee	Apols
Anne Whittaker	University of Stirling	Y
Dave Liddell	Scottish Drugs Forum	Apols
Duncan Hill	NHS Lanarkshire	Y
Lauren Johnston	Renfrewshire Council	Apols
Joe Schofield	DRNS Coordinator	Y
Thea House (minutes)	DRNS Administrative Assistant	Y

### 1 Agenda change

Due to adverse weather conditions the meeting was shortened and conducted via teleconference. As such, the agenda was shortened to discuss:

- Lived / Living Experience and Family member (LEAF) involvement
- Theme event (7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018)
- November 2018 conference

Topics originally on the agenda that were not covered will be picked up via email before the next meeting.

### 2 Lived Experience and Family member involvement

#### 2.1 Policy draft

JS has distributed the draft policy: “Involving people with lived and living experience of problem drug use and their families in the Drugs Research Network for Scotland”. This document aims to clearly set out the DRNS’ approach to the meaningful involvement of people with both lived and living experience of problem drug use and their families.

CM proposed an amendment to Section 2. Definitions (page 1): replace the sentence “This includes people in abstinent recovery, those in non-abstinent recovery, and people who are currently using drugs.” with “This includes people in recovery, including medication-assisted recovery, and people who are currently using drugs”. All attendees agreed.

AW suggested that, once reviewed by LEAF members, a sentence could be included saying something along the lines of “this document has been developed with people with lived/living experience and family members.” **JS & TP** to arrange an initial meeting of the LEAF advisory group to identify next steps.

**ALL** should read the document over the next week and email JS any comments. **JS** will then consult with LEAF representatives and put the final version of the document on the website.

#### 2.2 NIHR

**JS** has submitted an expression of interest for the DRNS to be a test-bed site for the NIHR’s public involvement standards. NIHR decision is due by mid-March.

### 3 Theme event (7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018)

#### 3.1 Feedback

The event was well-received and feedback was generally positive. Some people with lived / living experience noted that the event was predominately attended by academic researchers. This indicates that pre-event information could have been clearer to help manage expectations.

It was noted that the event generated lots of ideas regarding gaps in the evidence base and priorities for development. Agreed we should support the development of specific research proposals and bids in partnership with people who attended the event and the wider academic and peer research community.

#### 3.2 Next steps

Agreed to hold a follow-up event at Stirling on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Theme leads will outline a number of specific research ideas that reflect priorities identified in the Scottish Research Framework for Problem Drug and Recovery and the theme event. Groups will discuss these and develop into initial project proposals. Groups will be held at different times to allow people to attend more than one.

Noted the need to create a safe and inclusive environment for collaboration and the importance of acknowledging areas of difference and agreeing ground rules for the discussion of potentially contentious areas.

Agreed we should include a component of training for LEAF members in order to develop knowledge and skills and to help manage expectations about research development and application processes and timescales.

**JS** and **TH** to develop and promote the event.

### 4 DRNS annual conference

**JS** outlined work to date on arranging the DRNS' first annual conference. The focus will be on developing the knowledge and skills of the research community in Scotland including Masters and PhD students, early career researchers and peer researchers. Proposed sessions include increasing impact, the importance of theory, making successful funding applications, writing for publication, successfully navigating NHS ethics, and LEAF and public involvement. The Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow has been provisionally booked for 100 delegates on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> November and potential speakers have been approached (agreed speakers are Betsy Thom, Alex Stevens, Linda Bauld/Kate Hunt, Tracey Finch). **AM** offered to run the session on ethics. **CM** has applied to the SSA for funding to hold the event. All present supported this work.

**AW** suggested we also hold regular research digest events where leading experts provide an overview of the emerging evidence base for priority areas and researchers outline current work. The content of these events should be relevant for academics, policy-makers, practitioners and community members. All present supported this proposal and noted that this meets one of our KPIs. **JS** and **TH** to progress an initial event in May/June on drug and alcohol issues for women and families as a partnership between the DRNS, SHAAP and SARN. Agreed to develop two such events in 2018.

### 5 Next meetings

Agreed to progress actions via email during March and April. **TH** to arrange a t/c in March to review progress and set dates for the remainder of the year. Next face to face meeting previously confirmed as: 1.00-3.00 on Fri 27<sup>th</sup> April at the University of Stirling.