

## **Nutrition North – Regional Nutrition Research Collaborative Discussion**

**Tuesday 7th June 2022, 3.00pm**

***(Zoom Meeting)***

### **Meeting Notes and Actions**

#### **In Attendance:**

**Chair:** Bernard Corfe (BC), Professor of Human Nutrition and Health, Newcastle University

**Co-Chair:** Séamus O’Neill (SO’N), Chief Executive, Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA)

**Maria Bryant** (MB), Reader in Public Health Nutrition, University of York

**Ian Davies** (ID), Reader in Nutritional Science, Liverpool John Moores University

**Mandy Dixon** (MD), Head of Corporate Engagement, NHSA

**Jibin He** (JH), Senior Lecturer in Food Science and Technology, Teeside University

**Masoud Isanejad** (MI), University of Liverpool

**Nicola Lowe** (NL), Professor of Nutritional Sciences, UKRI/GCRF Challenge Leader for the Food Systems Portfolio, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)

**Bernadette Moore** (BM), Associate Professor of Obesity, University of Leeds

**Sohail Mushtaq** (SM), Associate Professor in Nutritional Biochemistry, University of Chester

**Julie Young** (JY), Northumbria University

**Jenny Paxman** (JP), Senior Lecturer in Nutrition, Sheffield Hallam University

**Liz Williams** (LW), Senior Lecturer in Human Nutrition, University of Sheffield

**Paul Gately** (PG), Professor of Exercise and Obesity, Leeds Beckett University

**Basma Ellahi** (BE), Professor of Public Health Nutrition, University of Chester

**Sarah Hill** (SH), Project Support Officer, NHSA

#### **Apologies:**

**John McLaughlin** (JM), Professor of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, University of Manchester

**Amelia Lake** (AL), Professor of Public Health Nutrition, Teeside University

**Frances Hillier-Brown** (FHB), Lecturer Public Health Nutrition, Health Nutrition Research Centre, Newcastle University

**Farzad Amirabdollahian** (FA), Professor of Nutrition and Public Health; Associate Dean, Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing; Head of School of Public Health Studies, University of Wolverhampton

**Emma Boyland** (EB), Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Liverpool

**Carolyn Summerbell** (CS), Deputy Director of Fuse, Durham University

**Helen Moore** (HM), Associate Professor (Research), Evaluation and Impact Team, Teeside University

**Charlotte Evans (CE)**, Associate Professor of Nutritional Epidemiology & Public Health Nutrition, University of Leeds

**Julie Abayomi (JA)**, Associate Head, Applied Health & Social Care, Edge Hill University

### Agenda

Item	Topic	Led By
1.	Welcome to new participants	BC/SO'N
2.	Re-cap of the Nutrition North Concept	BC
3.	Discussion of the Goals and Roadmap for Nutrition North	All
4.	Formulating our Offer to Industry	SO'N
5.	Building Region-Scale Projects	SO'N
6.	Proposal - Reinforcing our Identity through a Regional Interest Group in Nutrition Society Discussion	BC
7.	Preparations for an In-Person meeting at Sheffield Hallam University (Tuesday 12th July).	BC/JP

### Meeting Notes

#### [Nutrition North Zoom Meeting 07-06-2022](#)

1. BC opened the meeting and welcomed new colleagues.
2. BC gave a brief presentation, reviewing the "Nutrition North" Concept. He remarked upon the considerable spread of research expertise in Nutrition science across all the institutes in the North of England. This expertise represents enormous potential if coordinated as a group. The goal of "Nutrition North" is to increase the recognition of nutrition science across north and increase inward investment. Collectively, the group could respond to upcoming funding calls but also make a clear offer to funding bodies and industry. To ultimately define the funding agenda through work in policy. The initiative is also supported by the NHSA. An exploratory meeting was held in April and reception was positive. There was strong support for reaching out to more colleagues across the region. The aim of the group from the start was to be as inclusive as possible. BC thanked JP and ID for introductions to and discussions with colleagues in the North-West of England.

The next steps for the group included: To demonstrate the extent of existing collaborations; To identify projects where value could be added with region-wide collaboration; To acquire information on existing and prospective industry partnerships; To continue to invite and on-board regional colleagues; To arrange an “in-person” meeting at Sheffield Hallam University in July 2022 where these matters could be discussed in more depth.

BC concluded his overview by re-affirming that this is a collaborative and inclusive project for the whole region.

3. BC invited the group to discuss the “Nutrition North” concept and it’s next steps. ID observed that local authorities and councils are also involved in some nutrition projects.

LW referred to the concept as “Levelling Up Nutrition” and commented that a large proportion of nutrition funding goes to the Southern regions. Collaboration brings the strength to respond to funding calls and affect change.

4. SO’N explained about the role of the NHSA and the support it can offer. The NHSA vision is to use the Life Science Sector to improve health and economy in the North. The NHSA helps to convene groups that want to work together and advocates to government on their behalf. The NHSA can, for example, introduce public health organisations and NHS trusts to the group. Larger scale projects and networks are more likely to gain recognition for region.

5. SO’N spoke to the group about building region-scale projects and formulating an offer to Industry. He confirmed that “Levelling Up” is a large part of the government agenda and that more funding was offered to projects that were partnered with industry. SON referred to “iiCON” as an example of a highly successful collaboration between academia, Industry and the NHS. From experience, large projects gain a higher profile if they can focus on one thing. Eg. The “Child of the North” report on Health Inequalities in the North after the Covid-19 Pandemic.

BC suggested identifying a set of projects that represented a collective concern and that could be manageable across the region to raise the profile of the group.

BM expressed enthusiasm for the group and noted it was dominated by academic representatives. Suggested formulating a set of questions about region-wide projects that could be answered at the meeting in Sheffield.

BC agreed that the group should include members outside academia and that, with everyone’s support, it will continue to grow incrementally.

PG acknowledged that Industry are key stakeholders and that a focus for “Nutrition North” was important.

MD recommended looking at what various funders want to fund (which includes government, industry, local authorities etc.) and targeting efforts around those needs.

6. BC proposed Reinforcing the “Nutrition North” identity through endorsement/badging from a body such as IFST or Nut Soc. He suggested that, together with NHSA support, this would provide external validation of the collaboration (rather than needing a partnership agreement from multiple universities)

SO’N added that the NHSA can help with partnership validation and suggests drawing attention to the collaboration by doing something collectively (such as a report, event or article) that can be badged and that perhaps provokes a reaction.

BM noted that “Nutrition North” could be more vocal in the media speaking as a collective voice rather than an exposed individual.

LW commented on the appeal of being part of a recognized collective when working in partnership with industry. Suggested clarifying which companies members are comfortable associating with.

SO’N suggested a “Nutrition North terms of reference and guidance on working with industry” and that this could be published on a website so that it is transparent.

MB, BM & BC all remarked on how the nutrition community in general agrees that engagement with industry is needed to make positive changes in the future.

7. BC informed the group that preparations were underway for an in-person “Nutrition North” meeting at Sheffield Hallam University to coincide with the Nutrition Society conference in July 2022. The proposed meeting time is **11.00am on Tuesday 12th July**. The group was very positive about the idea.

BC and SO’N encouraged everyone to think about projects that could be delivered effectively to showcase the collaborative and that could be discussed at the meeting in Sheffield.

BC closed the meeting and thanked everybody for their contribution and enthusiasm.

### Actions

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>By</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a data capture form to gather information on existing collaborative projects and industry connections within the group.</li> </ul>	30/06/2022	SH/MD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute the data capture form to Nutrition North Group members</li> </ul>	04/07/2022	SH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile information on existing multi-partner projects, and industry connections. In particular, projects where value could be added by regional contribution and that could be used to showcase the collaboration.</li> <li>Use the information to complete the data capture form and respond to SH/MD</li> </ul>	End of July 2022	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue external badging as a group, initially via IFST and Nutrition Society Interest groups</li> <li>Consider how else to gain external badging.</li> </ul>	June/July 2022	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise details for an “in-person” Nutrition North meeting at Sheffield Hallam University.</li> <li>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 11.00am</li> <li>Send finalised meeting information to Nutrition North members</li> </ul>	June/July 2022	JP/SH  SH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think about topic areas for future group projects.</li> <li>Aim to have an elevator pitch session for group-building around project ideas at the 12th July Meeting</li> </ul>	June/July 2022	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate and compile all the information on existing collaborative projects and future project ideas to formulate short-term and longer-term goals.</li> </ul>	July/August 2022	BC/SO’N