

Nutrition North – Regional Nutrition Research Collaborative

Tuesday 12th July 2022, 11.00am

(Hybrid In-person and Microsoft Teams Meeting)

Meeting Notes and Actions

In Attendance:

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

Séamus O’Neill (SO’N), Chief Executive, Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA)

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Iain Brownlee (IB), Associate Professor, Dept of Biology, Food and Nutritional Sciences, Northumbria University

Leo Stevenson (LS), Senior Lecturer, Nutrition & Food Science, Liverpool Hope University

Sarah Hill (SH), Project Support Officer, NHSA

Apologies:

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

Julie Young (JY), Northumbria University

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

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

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

Masoud Isanejad (MI), University of Liverpool

Frances Hillier-Brown (FHB), Lecturer Public Health Nutrition, Health Nutrition Research

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

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

Agenda

Item	Topic	Led By
1	Welcome and Introduction: <i>Re-cap of the Nutrition North concept</i>	BC/SO’N
2	Update on the previous meeting and review of the agreed actions	BC/SO’N
3	What “Nutrition North” can learn from previous success: <i>Using “Health Equity North” as a guide</i>	SO’N
4	The “Nutrition North” executive and reporting	BC/SO’N
5	Finding our Voice: Landmark project ideas	BC/AL
6	Elevator Pitches and Discussion: <i>Ideas for potential Nutrition North projects are invited from the group.</i>	
7	Badging and external recognition	BC
8	Any other business	
9	Close of Meeting: <i>Next meeting date</i> <i>Informal networking over lunch</i>	

Meeting Notes

Nutrition North Meeting 12-07-2022

1. Welcome & Introduction

BC opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. BC gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting and a summary of the Nutrition North goals:

To raise the recognition of nutrition science in North and increase inward investment. To do this through having a clear offer to government, funders, and industry and a coordinated response to upcoming funding calls.

Work towards this so far has been:

- Two preliminary zoom meetings
- Continued on-boarding of like-minded colleagues
- Work to catalogue the extent of existing collaboration and the collective potential for grant funding

BC presented an example of the excel spreadsheet which has been designed to catalogue basic information on existing collaborative work. The spreadsheet has been emailed to everyone on the Nutrition North database. BC asked the group to please complete the form (on behalf of their organisation) and return to Sarah Hill.

2. What Nutrition North can learn from Health Equity North

BC introduced SO’N, NNSA Chief Executive Officer. SON described the role of the NNSA in supporting networks and advocating on their behalf. He encouraged the group to use the activity catalogue as a way of identifying future focus rather than a full mapping exercise. SO’N used the NNSA health inequalities work (Health Equity North) as an example of what can be achieved and suggested a “Nutrition North” logo

3. Nutrition North Executive & Reporting

BC explained that an initial executive structure for Nutrition North had been established to enable work to move forward as quickly as possible.

The current executive group members were introduced: BC, AL, JM with support from SH. The executive is accountable to SO’N (as NNSA CEO) and the NNSA Board.

4. Finding our Voice: Landmark project ideas

BC went on to explain that a landmark project would be a good way to coalesce and reinforce the identity of the group.

BC Suggested two possible project ideas:

- a) A regional food strategy: Junk food advertisement banning. model the economic benefit to the north (improved health, reduced health-care cost)
- b) A public-private partnership modelled on the Danish Wholegrain Partnership and WholeEUGrain. build on DWP model to improve nutrition engagement. opportunity to involve industry.

Opinions and other ideas from the group were invited.

CE agreed that one focus was important

PG observed that Health is often perceived as an economic blocker therefore something that stimulates economic growth would get interest.

The group discussed a number of relevant ideas including work around obesity, micronutrients, reducing food waste and Levelling-Up.

IB and SO'N recommended defining relevant industry partners as early as possible.

PG informed the group of several food companies that are based in the North including: ARLA, ABF, Greencore, ASDA, Kelloggs, Greggs, and Quorn.

SO'N, AL & BC suggested that the group should collaborate to write a report that could be badged as "Nutrition North" and would be the springboard for the beginning of the consortium.

CE proposed that the report could be a policy document and further proposed holding an event.

SO'N agreed and confirmed that the NHTA could publish and promote the report

The group discussed ideas around the nutrition needs of the North with the aim of writing a policy document that could be launched within 1 year.

The group also deliberated over the recent funding call from DEFRA. Funding applications as a collective (particularly in partnership with industry) are likely to be more successful than individual applications. CE observed that collective applications would reduce competition. LW agreed on the importance of the group supporting each other rather than competing for funding. The group consensus was that the current DEFRA funding call was too early for a unified Nutrition North application but that the group would back any member who wanted to submit an application.

5. Badging & External Recognition.

The formation of an IFST specialist group was considered to increase external recognition of Nutrition North. AL and BC nominated Jibin He to lead the formation of an IFST specialist group based on his existing links to IFST.

BC described the opportunity for a similar specialist group within the Nutrition Society. AL offered to lead on the formation of a NutSoc special interest group.

6. Any Other Business

BC explained that he was forming an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Nutrition and required a non-ministerial Tory MP to sit on the group.

AL and SO’N suggested some possible names. SO’N further suggested contacting Hannah Davies (HD), NHSA Head of Public and External Affairs, for recommendations and MP contact information.

With no further business, BC thanked everyone for their contributions and time and the meeting was closed.

Actions

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>By</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact SH if you have not received the data capture form (excel spreadsheet) • Complete the data capture form on behalf of your organisation (to gather information on existing collaborative projects and industry connections within the group) and return to SH (sarah.hill@thenhsa.co.uk) 	31/08/2022	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put together an outline/essay plan for a potential policy document 	Sept 2022	BC/AL/JM/SH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contact Jibin He and ask that he lead an IFST specialist group for Nutrition. • To send NutSoc special interest group information to AL • To lead on the formation of a NutSoc special interest group 	Sept 2022	AL BC AL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to contact AL & HD with information about APPG 	July/Aug 2022	BC