

Nutrition North – Regional Nutrition Research Collaborative

Tuesday 25th March 2025

1.00pm - 2.30pm

Via zoom

Chair: Prof Bernard Corfe

Meeting Notes and Actions

In Attendance:

Bernard Corfe (BC), Newcastle University

Julie Abayomi (JA), Edge Hill University

Yvonne Armitage (CA), Centre for Process Innovation (CPI)

Christine Bosch (CB), University of Leeds

Heather Brown (HB), Lancaster University

Iain Brownlee (IB), Northumbria University

Nicola Calder (NC), Food Active

Charlotte Evans (CE), Purple Nutrition

Swarnim Gupta (SG), University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

Jibin He (JH), Teesside University

Bruce Hollingsworth (BH), Lancaster University

Nicola Lowe (NL), University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

Bernadette Moore (BM), University of Liverpool

Sohail Mushtaq (SM), University of Chester

Kieran Tuohy (KT), University of Leeds

Liz Williams (LW), University of Sheffield

Sarah Hill (SH), Project Manager, The NHSA

Apologies:

Amelia Lake (AL), Teesside University

John McLaughlin (JM), University of Manchester

Robert Akparibo (RA), University of Sheffield

Charmele Ayadurai (BB), Durham University

Jordan Beaumont (JB), Sheffield Hallam University

Emma Boyland (EB), University of Liverpool

Maria Bryant (MB), University of York

Tom Butler (TB), Edge Hill University

Ian Davies (ID), Liverpool John Moores University

Basma Ellahi (BE), University of Chester

Charlotte Hardman (CH), University of Liverpool

Frances Hillier-Brown (FHB), Newcastle University
Fiona Malcolmson (FM), Newcastle University
Lucie Nield (LN), University of Sheffield
Georgia Payne (GP), South Tees Hospitals NHS FT
Aliya Porter (AP), Porter Nutrition
Nadia Ranceva (NR), Alder Hey Children's NHS FT
Senthil Senniappan (SS), Alder Hey Children's NHS FT
Jo Smith (JS), Teesside University
Leo Stevenson (LS), Liverpool Hope University
Carolyn Summerbell (CS), Durham University
Richard Webb (RW), Liverpool Hope University

1. Welcome and Introductions

BC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed:

- *Action (KT): To nominate a new Nutrition North representative from Leeds University*
- *Action (YA): To provide half a page on what sort of work CPI are doing.*
- *Action (BM/SH): To circulate feedback from the IPHR consultation workshops and the draft institute proposal to Nutrition North.*

BC welcome Dr Christine Bosch as the new Nutrition North representative from Leeds University.

SH confirmed that the CPI summary document from YA and the IPHR feedback and proposal had been circulated to the group.

The group also agreed that the minutes of previous meeting were an accurate representation of proceedings.

2. Updates from Workstreams:

2.1. Nutrition Reports

Nutrition in the North NHSA Report progress and status

SH confirmed that the finalized report on diet in the north of England is with the NHSA designer for formatting. A draft of the designed report will then be sent to the foreword author candidates. Once the foreword is written the report can be published.

BC outlined that the current report highlights the inequities in the north and points to examples of good practice in our region.

The group discussed how the report recommendations could feed into the new national food strategy (NFS). Concerns were expressed over the new Food Strategy Advisory Board (FSAB) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leading-food-experts-join-government-food-strategy-to-restore-pride-in-british-food>):

- Industry led
- Very few academics
- No northern representatives (The N8 was involved in an extensive response to the NFS but little of this was actually applied)
- No implementation of existing national food strategy

Action (All): To watch for future reports released by the NFS/FSAB and consider how Nutrition North could comment on them.

The group also discussed potential foreword candidates including:

- Alice Wiseman (Director of Public Health, Gateshead and Newcastle City Council)
- Sharon Hodgson (MP for Washington & Gateshead South, Chair of the School Food APPG) (https://www.sharonhodgson.org/about_sharon)
- Si King (Chef, TV presenter)

Progress on accompanying article for Nutrition Bulletin

Academic work on the NHSA Nutrition North report and the accompanying editorial for the Nutrition Bulletin has been led by IB. Should hopefully lead to academic engagement as well as media and political engagement from the NHSA report.

New report or project ideas arising from the Nutrition North report

BC encouraged colleagues to think of specific northern areas of challenge where further work and reports could be developed. The report can be used as a model for driving the Nutrition North agenda forward and securing more funding and activity in north.

KT shared that NAPIC (<https://napic.ac.uk/>) will soon launch funding opportunities aimed at developing white papers on alternative proteins. Funding call will start in May/June 2025 (<https://napic.ac.uk/funding/>). NAPIC is a national centre so has a strong public health remit. Nutrition North is well positioned to input and NAPIC is keen to get involvement from academics and public health.

YA commented that CPI had recently also published recommendations and other papers on alternative proteins are also due to come out soon. Potential for funding here.

BC and IB noted that a White paper on how we can improve regional transition to alternative proteins would be very interesting and fits well with some of the nutrient intake findings outlined in the Nutrition report.

2.2. School Nutrition

BC announced that Charlotte Evans (CE) has recently retired from academia and unfortunately no longer has capacity to develop the School Nutrition workstream.

Suggestions for alternative School Nutrition Programme Leads were discussed including:

- Prof Louise Dye from University of Sheffield
(<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/psychology/people/academic/louise-dye>)
- Dr Samantha Caton from University of Sheffield
(<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/smph/people/academic/population-health/samantha-caton>)
- Dr Robert Akparibo from University of Sheffield
(<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/smph/people/academic/population-health/robert-akparibo>)
- Prof Greta Defeyter from Northumbria University
(<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/d/greta-defeyter/>)
- Dr Suzanne Spence from Newcastle University (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/people/profile/suzannespence.html>)
- Prof Maria Bryant from University of York
(<https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/our-staff/maria-bryant/>)
- Dr Kelly Rose - Health, Nutrition and education specialist
(<https://nourishminds.co.uk/>); Advanced Practitioner for Healthy weight, Policy and Place at Durham County Council (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-kelly-rose-phd-rnutr-bsc-hons-pgce-afhea-03263a87?originalSubdomain=uk>)

Action (BC/SH/CE): To write to all the nominees discussed and ask if one of them would be interested in leading the School Nutrition programme for Nutrition North.

BM further noted the impact of government cuts on school food budgets.

2.3. Nutrition Webinars

SM discussed the current status of the Nutrition North webinars emphasizing the importance of developing a self-sustaining strategy that potentially includes industry funding. The webinar programme was put on hold several months ago whilst the issue of industry involvement was deliberated.

BC suggested an alternative approach, aligning the webinars with Nutrition North thematic areas of work. Workstreams would benefit from amplified messaging and improved engagement.

SM agreed.

SH informed the group that the NHSA has recently conducted a successful webinar on the topic of KTPs, which could serve as a model for future sessions.

Action (SH): To ask Charlotte Thompson (NHSA Communications Manager) about the process of designing a successful webinar and the costs involved.

2.4. Nutrition and Cancer

Fibre and Breast Cancer

KT spoke to the group about gathering preliminary data on fibre and breast cancer survivorship.

He also referred to the current funding calls from OIRC (<https://oirc.org.uk/>) which could be relevant if an industry partner was also involved.

Obesity and Cancer in the North - Colo Rectal Cancer and Gynae Cancers

BC discussed potential projects related to obesity and cancer outcomes, particularly in collaboration with Emma Crosbie from Manchester University. He spoke about the impact of obesity on care pathways, treatment completion and survivorship. A data driven project on obesity and cancer outcomes would be a strong theme for Nutrition North.

BM expressed interest in taking part in such a project.

JH mentioned colleagues at Teesside University working in cancer biology and treatment who might also be very interested.

2.5. Food Innovation North

YA gave a brief overview of food innovation work at CPI and also discussed the potential OIRC funding opportunities (<https://oirc.org.uk/>) mentioned previously by KT.

YA agreed that Nutrition North should mobilise great initiatives like Napic (<https://napic.ac.uk/>) and consider how we can attract other companies into this region. Showcase our connectedness/one-stop-shop.

BC agreed that there is recognised strength and depth in the region's industry and funding available to support industry across the "valley of death" between innovation and application.

KT spoke about the 6 hubs of OIRC that are now all under the umbrella of the British Nutrition Foundation (<https://biofortificationhub.org/about/innovation-hubs/>). They have attractive funding streams designed to foster collaboration between academia and industry. Different schemes for different levels of activity (<https://biofortificationhub.org/funding-opportunities/>)

KT also talked about regional workshops to bring industry in and explain what we are doing.

Action (YA): To contact SH and BC if she knows of any SMEs that would be interested in collaborating for OIRC funding.

3. Any other business

With no other business, BC thanked everyone for joining the call and the meeting was closed.

List of Actions:

1. Action (All): To watch for future reports released by the NFS/FSAB and consider how Nutrition North could comment on them.
2. Action (BC/SH/CE): To write to all the nominees discussed and ask if one of them would be interested in leading the School Nutrition programme for Nutrition North.
3. Action (SH): To ask Charlotte Thompson (NHSA Communications Manager) about the process of designing a successful webinar and the costs involved.
4. Action (YA): To contact SH and BC if she knows of any SMEs that would be interested in collaborating for OIRC funding.