**AHP Public Health Meeting**

**23/02/2022**

**Kim Hartley-Kean – Expert Advisor Inclusive Communication**

**Social Security Scotland**

Interview took place with Kim over MS Teams.

**Summary of Role**

Kim is the expert advisor to Social Security Scotland. The role is based around the promotion of inclusive communication for all. The role is directly linked with public health as it very much links with the social determinants of health. If a member of the population needs access to funds but not able to communicate/express their needs then this will limit their ability to request this. This is very much focused around literacy issues and communication expression. Kim therefore, has a key role in promotion of exclusive communication throughout policy that links with public and third sector services. This is very much around improving health inequalities and a social model of care.

The main focus is to promote public services to respond to the needs of the public. Kim has a role in expressing communication issues across the population that will enable/encourage services to be implemented in a way that meets their needs. Kim’s role in Social Security Scotland is to influence legislation and policy towards communication needs.

**How do you integrate Health Improvement?**

Kim’s role is encourage all services as well as social security Scotland to be communication exclusive. She makes recommendations at policy level on what’s needed and how SLT’s can set this in place. Kim will also link with professional bodies, which includes private and third sector work on what the needs of the population are, which will influence legislation and policy moving forwards. The aim is to influence the whole system and reduce the barriers for the population (specifically communication barriers).

**How does this role consider the wider determinants of health?**

As above.

The whole role is based around the social determinants of health and the reduction of health inequalities by making exclusive communication a legal obligation.

Kim is also doing some work with Consumer Scotland and the vulnerable consumer act.

The role is very much based around the social model of care over a medical model.

**Further discussion points**

Kim feels that whilst education and training on Public Health is important for AHP’s, one of the main focuses should be to have AHP’s involved in policy and law at government level. If more AHP’s are involved in strategic and operational roles at an early stage then the policy somewhat then forces public sectors to implement AHP’s into roles where the most need is. This then reduces potential barriers for the public to then gain support and get access to the most appropriate services that meet their needs.

Kim provided an example of where Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy could be involved in social security. She feels there is a role in looking at the space and set up of public buildings to make them accessible for all to support people with long term conditions. This would help to future proof public health services. This links back to AHP’s being more involved in discussions on policy and service implementation. Link closer with chief executives in Scotland and be more visible in their meetings.

Kim also highlighted that we need to shift the thinking of our leaders towards how our AHP skills can link with the Government objectives. 6 public health priorities for Scotland.

Lastly, Kim feels we need to shift the focus to changing the world so it works for them rather than what we think they need. Be more universal focused.

Kim consented for this information to be shared.