



Scottish Ports Liaison Network (SPLaN) Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 11:00am

Scottish Government, Saughton House, Broomhouse Dr, Edinburgh EH11 3XG

Present:

Crawford Sibbald(CDS)

John Laird(JL)

David Kernohan(DK)

Michael Lapsley(ML)

Jeanna Sandilands(JS)

Patrick Smyth(PS)

Gary Gould (GG)

Christopher Redman (CR)

Susan Gallacher(SG)

Diane Ward(DW)

Charlie Roger(CR)

Paul Kerr(PK)

David Brown (DB)

Paul Turner(PT)

Karen Fisher(KF)

Joseph O'Donnell(JO)

Richard Hyde(RH)

Falkirk Council

Falkirk Council

Scottish Government

Inverclyde Council

Scottish Government

Food Standards Scotland

Association of Port Health Authorities

Health Protection Scotland

North Ayrshire Council

Fife Council

Edinburgh City Council

Edinburgh City Council

Orkney Island (via VTC)

Orkney Island (via VTC)

Glasgow City Council

Apostleship of the Sea

Fife Council

Item Apologies

1 John Grant

Laura Gunning

Andrea Carson

Clifford Smith

Lindsey Matthew

C Easson

Pauline Reid

Kevin Love

Andrew McClenaghan

Peter McMillan

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeen City Council

Highland Council

Dundee City Council

Angus Council

South Ayrshire Council

North Ayrshire Council

Belfast City Council

Royal Navy

Action

2 Minutes of Meeting – 12th May 2017

Checked for accuracy.

3 Matters Arising

Orkney Islands Council Marine Services to provide SPLaN members with further Ballast Water Management Training in relation to sampling and the requirements of Section 11 of the Inspection Handbook.

Noted

4 Public Health Regulations for Ships and Aircraft Update

DK provided an update on the Public Health Regulations for Ships and Aircraft. Draft regulations are still under development taking into consideration the lessons learned by Public Health England (PHE) and Health Protection Scotland (HPS) in managing Ebola and Zika Virus. Local, National elections and now Brexit negotiations have resulted in a delay in the consultation and implementation of the regulations. However emergency public health/primary care Zika virus guidelines have been issued by Public Health England and

**Noted
All**

Health Protection Scotland. DK asked SPLaN members to put a case together to raise the profile of the regulations but need to give examples on why the revised regulations are required. Update to be received at next meeting, however in interim CR and DK to discuss prior to next meeting.

5 Emerging Infections and TRAVAX Outbreak Index 2106: Diseases of Public and Travel Health Risk

CR provided a summary of the HPS report on laboratory-confirmed travel-related infections in Scotland during 2016. He summarised recent travel trends and laboratory notifications of travel related significance. Increased business and domestic travel from Scotland to China and India has increased risk of exposure to emerging influenza strains and bacterial infections that are resistant to antibiotics. New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1) is an enzyme that makes bacteria resistant to a broad range of beta-lactam antibiotics.

Noted

Chris also gave a short presentation on work HPS is carrying out regarding risk assessment of diseases occurring abroad. This is on-going work in response to the rapid increase in global international travel, which is projected to carry on into the future. In Scotland, HPS guidance for health professionals and travellers is delivered through 2 websites:

<http://www.travax.nhs.uk/> and <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspx>.

Chris highlighted the risk register that has been developed in HPS. This uses a rapid risk assessment approach to filter out the vast majority of infectious disease reports from abroad to allow focus on high priority issues with proportionate actions identified; 23 risks to date. Chris highlighted that the greatest infection concerns continue to be from drug resistant organisms and pandemic flu.

6 Apostleship of the Sea – Health and Welfare of Seafarers

Deacon Joseph O'Donnell provided a summary of the work of the [Apostleship of the Sea](#). The port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship. The Apostleship of the Sea in Great Britain is part of an international network known to the maritime world as Stella Maris, working in 311 ports with 216 port chaplains around the world. He talked about the major welfare needs of seafarers in today's modern age. The main needs are help with making contact with family and loved ones back home, transport from the ship to town or a seafarers' centre and personal ship visiting and spiritual support.

Noted

He also talked about the support and pastoral care that he provides to seafarers and their families. He gave particular examples; a seafarer who had been seriously injured and another who had sadly passed away after suffering complications as a result of having a pasteurella infection. He encouraged the strengthening of communications between port health authorities and the Apostleship of the Sea. This is important especially when dealing with public health incidents involving seafarers to ensure that their health and pastoral care needs are met.

7 Imported Food Incident – Port of Grangemouth **Action**

JL gave a powerpoint presentation about an imported food incident. In May 2017 a container arrived at the Port of Grangemouth via the Port of Rotterdam. The container had been loaded in Nigeria. It had been incorrectly manifested and as well as containing foodstuffs (both Products of Animal Origin(POAO) and Foodstuffs of Non-animal origin(FNAO)) the consignment contained alcohol, soft drinks, soap, skin cream and hair extensions. The container was put on hold by customs and transferred to the Customs Shed within the port for further examination. As no entry and veterinary and legal veterinary/health certification documents were available the consignment of imported food stuffs failed to meet the requirements of EU food law. Some of the foodstuffs were also showing signs of decomposition and crawling insects and larvae were also present in the container. The importer was contacted via their agent and presented with the options of having the foodstuffs destroyed or re-exported to a third country. The importer after considering the costs of re-exporting was given the option to voluntarily surrender the FNAO and advised that we were taking charge of the POAO and disposing of the whole consignment as Category 1 material in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (mixed consignment). The importer was served a Regulation 17 TARP notice and a voluntary surrender form which they accepted. A waste contractor was also identified who collected and disposed of all the foodstuffs by incineration. Costs for officer time and disposal are being recovered from the importer.

Noted

8 Local Incidents

Nothing to report.

9 Port Health Training

Falkirk Council provided port health training to 8 students in September 2107. The day consisted of a grangemouth port safety brief, tour of the container port, visit to a ship and presentations on ship sanitation and imported food controls delivered by CS.

Noted

The SPLaN hosted Dr Androula Pavli, Head of Travel Medicine, Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr Christopher Redman, Senior Epidemiologist, Health Protection Scotland, Travel & International Health Team on 12th October. Dr Pavli was participating in the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\) Senior Exchange Initiative \(SEI\)](#) with Health Protection Scotland between 10th to 20th October 2017.

The SEI is a multilateral exchange of senior public health experts from EU Member States. The programme provides the participants with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with working methods of other EU countries, create a network and trust among colleagues and support the European dimension in public health cooperation and training. It is based on exchange visits and aims at providing bilateral learning opportunities. Dr Redman had previously been hosted by the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention where he had opportunity to visit Pereaos Port in Athens.

During her visit Dr Pavli encouraged continued sharing of port and public health information and best practice at a European level. The joint action under the EU ShipSan ACT, outcomes from the work packages and use of

information tools will contribute to improved governance in public health risk management and a better coordinated and balanced response to cross-border health threats

10 Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) Update and Membership Noted

GG gave a brief on the history of [APHA](#) which was founded in 1899. APHA is the only UK wide organisation representing the interests of Local Authorities and Port Health Authorities with responsibilities for health controls at sea and airports. The Association plays an important role in protecting public health through liaison with government departments and agencies, local authorities and internationally through the EU, the World Health Organisation and trade bodies. It contributes significantly to national and international policy development and keeps its members up-to-date with changes in legislation and guidance and in the future using social media. **Noted**

Belfast City Council hosted the last APHA Executive Board meeting on 18th October 2017 and GG and executive board members attended the FSA Annual Reception held at the House of Commons on the 24th October 2017. The ports in Northern Ireland are to form a PLaN and had been invited to this meeting but unfortunately could not attend. JL to invite again to next meeting. **JL**

A very successful Ships Inspection Workshop was held at Seaham in County Durham and another is planned in Boston, Lincolnshire. Gary thanked the SPLaN for supporting the training events in Scotland, their contributions to the APHA newsletter and for the assistance in the editing of the Port Health Handbook.

He also encouraged attendance of the AGM and Training Day on the 22nd November 2017 at the Union Jack Club, London. It is open to anyone with an interest in Port Health and will provide an excellent opportunity to gain some valuable CPD as well as giving networking opportunities. JL and DW to look into attending the AGM and training day.

Gary also spoke about membership, benefits, and the fee structure and reminded everyone that there has been no increase in membership fees since 2014 which means a reduction in real terms.

Gary reminded everyone that the Association is a not for profit company, run by the members, for the benefit of members and relies on the contributions of member authorities in terms of officer time as well as fees.

Gary finished by talking about the APHA vision which will be achieved through the following aims and objectives which include: Increasing capability of member authorities through the provision of training and information; continuing to raise the profile of port health services with key stakeholders including local authorities, Government Departments and Agencies, European Commission, industry bodies and consumer organisations; Identifying and developing strategy and policy to tackle any emerging issues of port health significance.

11 AOCB

SG requested advice regarding the process for the registering of new ports for the issue of Ship Sanitation Control and Exemption Certificates (SSCC/SSCEC). Susan referred to requests being made to North Ayrshire Council, Environmental Health for SSCC/SSCEC inspections to be carried out **CR**

at Fairlie Quay, North Ayrshire. CR offered to provide advice outside the meeting.

12 Date and time of next meeting

Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed. JL to arrange with Scottish Government.

JL/DK

DRAFT