

Forensic Network

**Annual Report
2021/22**

This report provides an overview of key aspects of our work and achievements over the last 12 months from April 2021 to March 2022.

If you would like know more about the work of the Forensic Network or SoFMH, please contact the Forensic Network Office by email: tsh.forensicnetwork@nhs.scot or telephone: 01555 842018.

Contents

Joint Foreword	04
Executive Summary	05
What We Do	06
Governance Structures	08
Forensic Network Operations	09
Professional Groups	09
Clinical Fora	10
Short-Life Working Groups	11
Joint Working	13
SoFMH Operations	15
New to Forensic (N2F)	16
Professional Short Courses	17
Research	18
Communication & Engagement	19
Future Plans	20
References	22



Dr Lindsay Burley CBE
Chair



Prof. Lindsay Thomson
Director

Joint Foreword

Chair & Director Forensic Network & SoFMH

This year we welcomed the Scottish Government's response to the Barron Report on the delivery of forensic mental health services. It established a short-life working group to examine the main recommendation of a single forensic mental health board for Scotland. The work of this group is nearing its end and we face a realistic prospect of developing a cohesive forensic mental health system empowered to make structural and service change across Scotland and ensure equality of access and provision. Across the Network people have worked extensively to support this process and we look forward to a positive outcome. We have entered the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic and although no longer as life threatening due to vaccination, it continues to affect our patients, staff and service delivery. Work has been published on learning the lessons across the Network from Covid-19 pandemic.

Over this last year at the request of Scottish Government, the Network has tackled our significant capacity issues and developed short, medium and long-term plans. The short-term plan has been implemented and the immediate bed situation alleviated to a degree but the solution rests in the medium and long-term plans which requires the development of the cohesive system described above.

Work has resumed on forensic services for women and solving the gross inequity whereby the majority of women requiring low secure services find themselves located well away from their home areas. The proposal for a Serious Offender and Prevent liaison service is progressing and this will fill an obvious gap in provision across Scotland.

This year the Network and School contributed to research carried out in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh into a needs assessment of the mental health of people in prison. The results have led to a series of recommendations which have direct relevance for our patients and staff and we look forward to seeing these published by Scottish Government in the Autumn.

As we consider the coming year, a main focus of our work will be on extending the remit of the School as recommended in the Barron Report. We will be seeking ideas from across the Network and would greatly welcome your input to this. As ever, we extend our thanks to all of you across the Network and beyond who have contributed to the care of patients and their families, and to our work in this year. We hope you enjoy reading about your work and endeavours in the coming pages.

Executive Summary

The Forensic Network and the School of Forensic Mental Health (SoFMH) are delighted to provide this progress report on the key aspects of our work and achievements over the past 12 months, from April 2021 to March 2022. The Network has continued to prosper and provide advice and support both within and beyond Scotland. This annual report demonstrates the range of our work, including influencing policy, supporting professional groups, coordinating national responses and developing good practice.

In addition to this, through the SoFMH, our role in supporting training, education and research through delivery of a wide portfolio of courses to meet the needs of all staff working within forensic mental health services is ongoing. The achievements of the Forensic Network and SoFMH are down to our colleagues and partner agencies across the forensic mental health estate who provide their expertise on professional and national working groups, advise on training requirements and plan professional development events. We also continue to work closely with our Clinical Leads and remain grateful for the commitment, enthusiasm and motivation that they bring to their roles. Without the strong support and commitment of colleagues, our work would not be possible and our extensive thanks and gratitude go to all for their support in helping us to deliver on national aims and projects. We are also grateful to Scottish Government for their continued support of our areas of work.

Key Achievements 2021/22:

Clinical Developments

- Adopted a central role in supporting outcomes from the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services
- Published an update paper on Communications & Technology use in forensic mental health settings
- Facilitated a SLWG to explore and communicate the response from forensic mental health services to Covid-19 pandemic.
- In conjunction with colleagues across the Network, developed a short-term plan to address capacity issues within forensic mental health services.
- Re-convened the Women's Forensic Services Planning Group.
- Continued to progress with proposal for a National SOLS/Prevent service as a joint

Continuous Improvement

- Completed the 2021 Census Exercise.
- Further developed data collation processes to deliver on the original aims of the Forensic Network.
- Continued to progress with the National Census Database to support the collation of estate-wide data and contribute to national research projects.
- Continue to offer a diverse range of Clinical Fora which are highly valued by delegates.

Education & Research

- Held 8th Annual FNRSIG Research Conference.
- Delivered a range of academic and short professional courses using a hybrid model of face-to-face and virtual delivery.
- In conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, we contributed to an assessment of the mental health needs of the prison population in Scotland. This will be published in 2022/23.
- Development of N2F training programme for forensic services in Pakistan.
- Continued to support multi-site and network wide research opportunities in line with priorities outlined in the FNRSIG Research Strategy 2019 – 2023.

What We Do

Forensic Network

The Forensic Network was established in September 2003 following a review of The State Hospitals Board for Scotland. Detailed in the report *'The Right Place: The Right Time: Improving the patient journey for those who need secure mental healthcare'* (Scottish Executive Health Department, 2002). Scottish Ministers requested the development of a Network to bring a pan-Scotland approach to the planning of services and patient pathways, and to address fragmentation across the Forensic Mental Health Estate (Gordon, 2003; Scottish Parliament, 2003).

The predominate focus of the Forensic Network's attention since its development has been on current challenges:

- the configuration of the forensic estate
- defining levels of security
- admission and referral criteria

Development of services for:

- adolescent patients
- intellectual disability patients
- women patients
- mental health services for patients

Quality Improvements across the forensic estate:

- management of personality disorder
- resolving clinical conflicts
- establishing processes for risk assessment and risk management

The Forensic Network has worked closely with regional and government colleagues to develop national policy on the configuration of services and the assessment and management of restricted patients.

The Forensic Network seeks to address fragmentation across forensic mental health services and to standardise and improve care for Mentally Disordered Offenders in Scotland.



Forensic Network



SoFMH

SCHOOL OF FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH

School of Forensic Mental Health

The SoFMH was established in 2007 under the direction of the Forensic Network. This is a virtual school, offering teaching, training and research assistance to all professional groups and associated agencies involved in the assessment and care of individuals with a mental disorder who come into contact with forensic services.

The model involves expert clinicians, active in the forensic field developing and delivering short courses and the creation of formal qualifications in collaboration with higher and further educational establishments.

Included is the development and delivery of the “*New to Forensic*” Programme suite (N2F).

The SoFMH has a strong research focus and supports the dissemination and commissioning of research to establish an evidence base for future service development.

Aims:

To improve the quality of response, care, treatment and outcomes for people with a mental disorder who come into contact with, or whose behaviour puts them at risk of contact with, the criminal justice system, in ways that are non-discriminatory, promote equality and respect diversity

Offer multi-level and progressive provision of learning across the college and university interface

Improve public safety through enhanced risk assessment and risk management

Enhance clinical practice through the development and promotion of findings from large scale research projects

Promote positive mental health care delivered on a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency basis

Governance

The aims of the Forensic Network are achieved through the Forensic Network Board, a national stakeholder oversight group. At an operational level the Inter-Regional Group (IRG), drives forward progress through the commissioning of short-life working groups allocated responsibility for topic-specific or geographic-specific projects, providing direction where national guidance is required. Additionally, the Forensic Network takes guidance and direction from our professional groups and our Clinical Leads.



Since the Network's inception there has been a strong commitment to a multi-agency approach, which has facilitated information-sharing and supported the development of effective working relationships with our partners in the third and independent sector and regional associates across the estate. These relationships have supported continuous improvement in the planning of services to improve the patient journey across forensic mental health services.

The School of Forensic Mental Health Governance Committee (meets bi-annually) and an operational team reports to this Committee (meets bi-monthly). To date, the SoFMH has responded to commissions from the Scottish Government, National Education Scotland, Police Investigation and Review Commission, Risk Management Authority Scotland, Scottish Social Services Council, forensic services and local authorities across the UK.

Forensic Network Operations

Professional Groups

The Forensic Network supports several professional groups, which provide opportunities for colleagues to collaborate on discipline-specific challenges. Professional group Chairs attend the Forensic Network Advisory Board and ensure robust communication links to ongoing work streams and professionals contribute to Network development at a strategic level.



The Network maintain close links with the Scottish Royal College of Psychiatrists Forensic Faculty and does not host a separate psychiatry professional group.

The Forensic Network Office organised Professional groups which convened on 22 occasions in 2021-2022, and resulted in the following developments and key achievements:

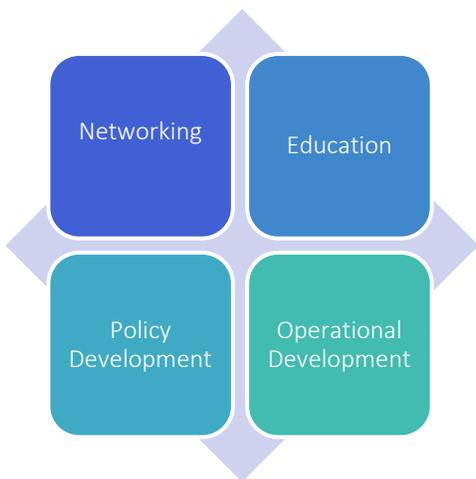
- Publication of the Mentally Disordered Offender (MDO) Training portal for Mental Health Officers (MHO)s working in Scotland, on TURAS Learn, facilitated by the Social Work Group.
- Continued completion and sharing of good practice from Prescribing Observatory for Mental Health UK Benchmarking Projects within Pharmacy departments in forensic services.
- Hosting and supporting Allied Health Professional colleagues working within the Scottish Prison Service on their move towards an established forum.
- Provision of professional group responses to National Consultations. (Mental Welfare Commission and Deaths in Detention Reviews.
- The Lead Nurse Forum hosted a successful Annual Conference (October 2021), with presentations relating to the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services.
- The Scottish Group of Forensic Clinical Psychologists continued to host a series of Continuous Professional Development sessions for members, focusing on staff wellbeing and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Clinical Fora

Over the course of 2021/22, the Network has continued to host Clinical Fora via webinar format on Microsoft Teams, with more than 10 events being delivered to **over 1330 delegates!** This has allowed for the continuation of events to support networking, education and operational development across the Network.

Fora continued to be well supported and valued by colleagues across the Network. Due to the virtual delivery format, many clinical fora have continued to welcome delegates from across Scotland and further afield. Themes for clinical fora are sought from delegates attending events and these are reflected in the development of future programmes and events, ensuring that topics are relevant, current and desirable.

The Network has a robust feedback system in place to ensure that events are of high quality and meet the demands and requirements of attendees. During this period, 99% of delegates rated the webinar sessions overall as either excellent or good and 89% reported that the topics covered were relevant to their current practice. Delegates provided consistently positive feedback on the use of Microsoft Teams as a delivery method for webinar sessions.



Sexual Harm

Joint with NOTA Scotland



MAPPA



Risk



Addictions



Victims & Trauma



Intellectual Disabilities



Personality & Problem Behaviour



Women

“This was a fantastic presentation. It was so relevant to my work and the material presented was very up to date. The case illustrations really helped make the information come alive and there was lots of useful content” – Delegate, Sexual Harm Clinical Fora, Sept 2021

Short Life Working Groups



Communications & Technology 2021

In 2018, Scottish Government requested a Forensic Network project examining communications and Specified Persons legislation within forensic mental health services. The aim undertaken was to consider improvements to current arrangements for forensic mental health patients in order to safely maximise access to technology.

In 2020, Scottish Government asked the Forensic Network to reconsider the original work in light of the rapid digital innovation as a result of the pandemic and resulting national restrictions. A short-life working group was convened to update knowledge on current practice across the estate and to review recommendations made by the initial short-life working group in 2018. A report outlining the findings and recommendations was submitted in June 2021 and is currently under review by Scottish Government.

[Click to Read Report](#)



COVID19

COVID-19 Response and Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on mental health service delivery. In particular, it has presented secure services with significant challenges and posed a number of practical and ethical questions in relation to patient care. From March 2020, all services adapted their models of care and implemented new strategies to ensure the continuous delivery of care for forensic patients, to overcome any barriers in patient flow and to manage and prevent the risk of virus transmission. In order to facilitate the remobilisation, recovery and transition of forensic mental health services following the pandemic, these changes to practice and any new strategies and measures required to be examined and reviewed in order to inform future policies and practices. In March 2021, Scottish Government requested that the Forensic Network form a short-life working group to examine the response of forensic mental health services to COVID-19.

A short-life working group was convened in April 2021 and provided a full report with recommendations to Scottish Government in September 2021. This report aimed to set out an assessment of service responses to COVID-19 and to outline any areas of learning or improvement that may be sustained over the longer term. The recommendations sought to inform policy decisions in relation to the remobilisation, recovery and transition of services after the pandemic, and the future delivery of care to forensic patients.

[Click to Read Report](#)



Capacity in the Forensic Mental Health Estate

In September 2021, Scottish Government wrote to the Forensic Network requesting an urgent piece of work be taken forward in order to develop a plan for a more joined up approach to better utilise the capacity within forensic mental health services. Given the immediacy of the situation, an initial plan was to be provided to Scottish Government by 28th September 2021.

The Forensic Network liaised and consulted with a number of stakeholders via an Advisory Group and a proposed delivery plan was submitted to Scottish Government as requested. This contained 16 short-term, 4 medium-term and 3 long-term options. Across October 2021 – March 2022, the Network and colleagues across the estate sought to progress the items within the short-term delivery plan and succeeded in creating additional short-term capacity within low, medium and high secure services. Medium and long-term delivery plans have now been passed to Scottish Government for further action and consideration.



Women's Services and Pathways across the Forensic Mental Health

A short-life planning group on Women's Services and Pathways across the forensic mental health estate commenced in 2019 in conjunction with the National Planning Board to take forward four recommendations endorsed by the NHS Chief Executives' Group, pertaining to low security and community services. With recognition of the overlap between the work of this short-life working group and the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services, the work of this group paused until the Review team published its findings in February 2021.

In line with Recommendation four of the Independent Review, the Women's Forensic Services Planning group reformed in November 2021 to complete work related to pathways across medium, low and community forensic settings. The group is now chaired by Prof. Angela Wallace and includes membership from forensic mental health services (NHS and Independent), National Planning, National Services Scotland (NSS) and community services. Representatives from The State Hospital have also been invited to join the group in order to provide updates as to the development of an interim high secure service for females and to ensure that pathways and services for women are planned cohesively.

The group meets every two months and look forward to progressing work in this area across the coming 12 months.



Psychological Therapies SLWG

In 2011, the Forensic Matrix Group was established as a senior operational delivery group by the Forensic Matrix Steering Group, to provide an opportunity to develop a joined-up approach to the delivery of psychological therapy services across Scotland. Over the past ten years, the group achieved many of their original aims and outcomes. More recently, members of the group highlighted barriers to the effective implementation of psychological therapies within forensic services. Given this, the publication of the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services and NES work on the Matrix, it was agreed that a short-life working group would be convened to review and consider the way forward in relation to the delivery of psychological therapies within forensic mental health services in Scotland.

The group commenced in October 2021, chaired by Dr Lindsay Burley and held six meetings in total. The group sought to review original aims, work completed and to consider the identified barriers. The group made recommendations as to how to progress psychological therapies work across FMHS. A draft report was submitted to the Forensic Network Inter-Regional Group for consideration in May 2022. It is hoped that further positive progress can be made with regard to delivery of psychological services within forensic mental health settings.

Joint Working

Scottish Government – Planning and Collaboration SLWG

Following the publication of the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services and the Scottish Government response in 2021, the Scottish Government established a short-life working group (SLWG), including key stakeholders, to propose changes to improve support for planning, collaboration and improvement of forensic mental health services in Scotland. The SLWG commenced in November 2021 and is due to report to the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care in Summer 2022.



The SLWG was intended to be focused and limited in number of members, with a responsibility to engage fairly, broadly and to assess best evidence for a way forward. As a member of the group, Prof. Lindsay Thomson (Director, Forensic Network & SoFMH) has provided input to discussions on behalf of the Forensic Network and ensured that regular updates on the work of the group have been shared with key stakeholders across the forensic mental health estate.

Across early 2022, the SLWG initiated an options appraisal exercise to consider how best to bring forward the change that is needed. The Forensic Network has worked with Scottish Government to ensure fair representation within this exercise from forensic mental health practitioners, managers, carer groups, third sector services and wider stakeholder groups in order for the process to be robust. We look forward to further supporting the outcomes of this work across 2022-23.

Scottish Health in Custody Network (SHiC)

The Scottish Health in Custody (SHiC) Network's overarching aim is to bring NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and wider partners together to improve the quality of life of people in the justice system, enhancing their potential within society and improving the wellbeing and safety of our communities.



Over 2021 – 2022 the Forensic Network has continued to work in collaboration with the SHiC Network with representation on the SHiC Oversight Board and on several facet groups across both the National Prison and Police Care Networks. Key discussions have been initiated as to how improvements can be made to support the transfer of individuals who require care and treatment from custodial settings to forensic mental health services. We hope to continue the collaborative development of these processes over the coming 12 months.



NHS Education Scotland (NES)

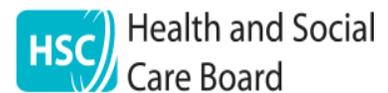
Several joint training initiatives have been facilitated between NES and the SoFMH, which contribute to the continued professional development of colleagues across forensic services in Scotland.

Examples of joint training and educational activities undertaken in 2021 – 2022:

- Further development and delivery of the Approved Medical Practitioner Course. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed, formalising the working relationship between the two organisations introducing a governance structure around the development and delivery of future training.
- Representation on Network short-life working groups relating to the delivery of psychological interventions in order to ensure a cohesive and consistent approach is taken between national drivers for psychological services (e.g. the Matrix) and forensic-specific guidance documents.
- Continued delivery of Low Intensity (LI) psychological practitioner training, which has now been delivered to over 340 practitioners across 12 NHS Boards. There are plans to deliver further courses throughout 2022 – 2023.

Forensic Managed Care Network in Northern Ireland

The Forensic Network is proud of the work undertaken in partnership with the Irish National Forensic Mental Health Service to support the establishment and ongoing development of the Forensic Managed Care Network (FMCN). The FMCN covers mental health and intellectual developmental disability services across Northern Ireland and promotes multi-agency working across health and social care services, criminal justice agencies, third sector and user and carer organisations. As the FCMN has become more established over the last 12 months, there have been opportunities for joint-learning and the sharing of information relating to educational provision to support staffing in forensic mental health services. The Forensic Network will continue to offer strategic direction and support to the FMCN through its Advisory Board and to liaise with colleagues on a number of issues relevant to both Scottish and Northern Irish contexts.



SoFMH Operations

The SoFMH offers teaching and training to all professional groups and agencies involved in the assessment and care of individuals with a mental disorder, who come into contact with forensic services. Prior to the introduction of the SoFMH there were no bespoke training programmes for forensic practitioners. However, there is now a wealth of options at all educational levels.

The SoFMH has become an invaluable resource, providing forensic training and cost-effective solutions to teaching across Scotland. It is the primary educator in the forensic field in Scotland and supports the promotion of research and development of an evidence base for practice, hosting an annual research conference, which showcases achievements from across the forensic mental health estate. The Forensic Network and SoFMH have also hosted several national conferences, and have developed strong international links, with representation on the board of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (IAFMHS).



3 Academic Courses

MSc Forensic Mental Health, Forensic Mental Health Module and Graduate Certificate in Personality Disorder

25 Professional Short Courses
3 Flagship 'New to Forensic' (N2F) Programmes



Annual Forensic Network Research Special Interest Group Conference

International Engagement through the Global Citizenship Programme and IAFMHS Conference



New to Forensic (N2F) Programme



- **Mental Health Teaching Programme**

The original *New to Forensic* programme continues to cultivate interest and has become part of the induction training suite of many NHS Boards. To date approximately 1800 practitioners have completed the programme across the NHS, independent sector, social work, voluntary sector, criminal justice services, Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland and Scottish Government.

- **New to Forensic: Medicine**

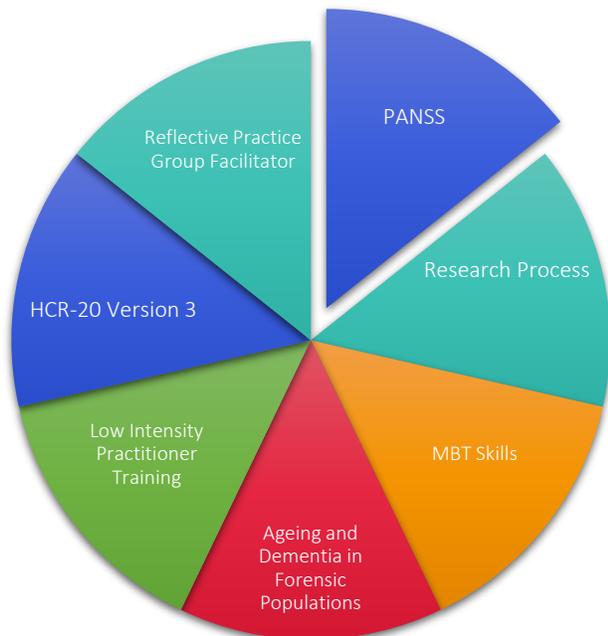
This course was designed in 2014 in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland) for medical and nursing staff working in police custody.

- **New to Forensic: Essentials of Psychological Care**

This programme launched in 2015 to improve psychological literacy amongst those working in forensic mental health services and to demonstrate that providing psychological care is a shared responsibility. The programme also forms part of a larger national initiative that aims to increase access to psychological treatment for forensic patients.

Professional Short Courses

The SoFMH continues to respond to the requests of forensic practitioners and partner agencies around training needs and has developed a cohort of courses and training events to satisfy these requirements. In this way, the SoFMH has created an appetite for CPD and supported opportunities for knowledge development and skill acquisition.



During 2021 - 2022, a total of 10 training events were offered to delegates from a wide range of disciplines and sectors.

Covid-19 continued to have a detrimental impact on practitioners' ability to engage with professional short courses as many Health Boards cancelled non-essential training in order to prioritise the delivery of safe patient care. This meant that several planned courses had to be cancelled across the autumn/winter period, in line with the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. As a result, we scheduled several of our events for Spring 2022 in order to allow practitioners and colleagues across the estate the best opportunity to access courses relevant to their work, once lockdowns and national restrictions were eased.

As we progressed through the year, the SoFMH has adopted a hybrid format in terms of event delivery, in line with the easing of national restrictions relating to Covid-19. Many courses have returned to an in-person delivery format, or are planned in the coming 12 months. However, there are some courses which virtual delivery has been particularly well-received and we aim to continue to offer these online where possible to support colleagues from further afield to access to courses. The successful relationship continues between University of the West of Scotland and Forensic Network practitioners delivering training collaboratively to students (As pictured below: Dr Jon Patrick and Donna Maguire (UWS) delivering training to Graduate Certificate in Personality Disorder students).



Continued Positive Feedback...



143 Course Delegates in 21/22



97% rated training as 'good' or 'excellent'



98% felt that their learning needs had been met

Research

The SoFMH supports research across the forensic mental health estate through a variety of initiatives and these are coordinated through the Forensic Network Research Special Interest Group (FNRSIG). The group meet on a quarterly basis and contribute towards a broad range of research activities, some of which are detailed below. Over the past 12 months the group has held workshops in order to review the remit of the group and to ensure engagement from services and partner agencies working within forensic mental health services within Scotland.

A copy of the [FNRSIG Research Strategy for 2019 - 2023](#) is available on our website which directs the work of the group. A refreshed and revised research strategy will be developed over the coming 12 months.

Annual Conference

The FNRSIG held their 8th national Research Conference on 4th November 2021. The conference was held virtually for the second year in a row in order to minimize disruption caused by the pandemic.

The Keynote Presentation was delivered by Professor Pamela Taylor (University of Cardiff) and was very well-attended, showcasing research from across the forensic estate. The conference provides a fantastic opportunity for networking, focused discussion on forensic mental health research, and is a particularly welcoming and supportive forum for first time presenters and students to disseminate findings.

This year saw the return of prize-giving, with congratulations going to:

- Best Poster: Ruaridh Gill (Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology) and Emma Brown (Health Improvement Practitioner) for their poster *'The Implementation of Self-Help Resources within HMP Shotts'*



Research Mapping

The annual research mapping exercise updates the development of the Forensic Network project list. This identified 44 planned, ongoing or recently completed research and evaluation studies within forensic mental health services and associated partner organisations.

Listings are available on our website.

Census & Database

The Forensic Network annual census, conducted and collated the annual census on the 26th November. The first census in 2013 was a full data set and all subsequent years (2014 – 2021) the census has reduced dataset to monitor the movement of patients through the forensic estate. There has been a strong investment by services and the Network in this as a tool for estate data analysis and we remain grateful to services for their engagement.

Requests to access the Census data have been received from a number of sources and work has been ongoing on the development of a national Forensic Network Inpatient Database. It is hoped that the database can be launched in the coming year and will provide services with useful information and provide a national longitudinal dataset to support Scottish forensic mental health research.

Communication & Engagement

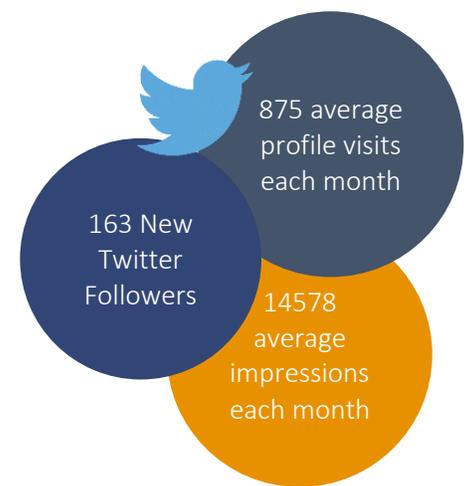
Communications

Across 2021-2022 we continued to use the following methods to ensure effective communication and sharing of information across the Forensic Network and SoFMH:

- Monthly event email detailing all upcoming training, events and conferences, alongside a quarterly newsletter to share examples of good practice on behalf of services across the estate.
- Refreshed our website to improve accessibility and make it easier to find information and book events.
- Regular sharing of key reports from partner agencies (e.g. Mental Welfare Commission).
- Signposting colleagues to Consultations that are relevant to forensic mental health and justice services.
- Use of Twitter throughout the year to engage with those interested in forensic mental health!



Our mailing list continues to grow –
380 new subscribers across 2021 – 22!



International Engagement

As a network, we also continue to seek to engage with colleagues and partner agencies out with Scotland in order to learn, improve and to share the work taking place within our own forensic services.

Some of the ways in which we have been able to do this over the last 12 months include:

- Ongoing engagement with colleagues in Pakistan through the Global Citizenship Programme.
- Presentations given at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (IAFMHS) Annual Conference in June 2021 and the Royal College of Psychiatrists Forensic Faculty Conference in March 2022.
- A distribution list of subscribers from 12 countries worldwide.
- Website visitors from across Europe, North America, Africa, Australia and Asia.

Future Plans

Across 2022 – 2023, the Forensic Network will continue to progress our aims of determining the most effective care for people with a mental disorder who come into contact with forensic services, providing guidance on best practice, addressing wider issues surrounding patient pathways and supporting the delivery of local service development and implementation.

We will continue to support Scottish Government to implement recommendations from the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services and to report on emerging issues within forensic mental health services. We also look forward to once again taking forward our Continuous Quality Improvement Framework (CQIF) Reviews to support benchmarking and the sharing of good practice across the estate. A Training Needs Analysis will be undertaken in 2022 through the SoFMH in order to assist the development of the next 2022-27 training plan for professional short courses. We also aim to complete a learning and development strategy for the SoFMH over the course of 2022-2023.

Further details of our future plans are set out below.

Clinical Development

- Continue to support the implementation of recommendations from the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services across 2022/23.
- Facilitate the Women's Forensic Services Planning group and support the implementation of recommendations from the Women's services and Pathways across the Forensic Mental Health Estate Report (2019) and the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services.
- Coordinate responses to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review Consultation and proposals across Spring/Summer 2022.
- Work to progress the proposal for a National Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS), combined with a counter-terrorism 'Prevent' service as a joint health and justice initiative.
- Support the development of Northern Ireland Forensic Network.
- Provide input and advice to National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service group to help develop a forensic / secure service for children

Continuous Improvement

- Commence the third cycle of Continuous Quality Improvement Framework (CQIF) Reviews in conjunction with colleagues and services across the forensic mental health estate.
- Continue to develop data collation processes to further deliver on the aims of the Forensic Network, particularly around auditing, benchmarking and Key Performance Indicators.
- Roll out of the Forensic Network Service Census database to enable local services to use and enable live reporting and analysis of the data.

Education & Research

- Supporting new multi-site and network-wide research opportunities in line with the research priorities in the FNRSIG Research Strategy 2019-2023.
- Development of new courses and training materials for those working within forensic intellectual disability services.
- Provide Clinical Fora / Webinars on emerging topics to support organisational development, education and networking across 2022 – 2023.
- Exploring opportunities to further develop and grow the work of the School of Forensic Mental Health, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services and requirements of those working across the estate.

References

- Forensic Network (2021). Supporting Communication & Technology Use in Mental Health Settings: Update Paper. Online: Forensic Network. Available at: <https://forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Comms-Tech-Update-Paper-May-2021-1.pdf>
- Forensic Network (2021). Forensic Mental Health Services' Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Available at: <https://forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/C-19-Report-September-2021.pdf>
- Forensic Network (2019). Forensic Network Research Special Interest Group: Research Strategy 2019 – 2023. Available at: <http://www.forensicnetwork.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/Research-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf>
- Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services (2020). Interim Report: What People Told Us. Online: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-forensic-mental-health-reviewinterim-report/>
- Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services (2021). Final Report: What We Think Should Happen. Online: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/independent-forensic-mental-health-review-final-report/documents/>
- Scottish Government (2021). Scottish Government Response to the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services. St Andrews House, Edinburgh. Online: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-response-independent-review-delivery-forensic-mental-health-services/#:~:text=The%20Scottish%20Government%20welcomes%20the,carers%2C%20clinicians%20and%20the%20public.>