

Health Literacy Group UK Annual Report



**Annual report of the Health Literacy Research Group
Prepared by
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Introduction

Health Literacy UK (HLUK) was founded in March 2007 and was awarded Special Interest Group status by the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) the same year. HLUK was launched with Prof Gill Rowlands as Chair 2007 – 2014; now Chaired by Prof Jo Protheroe since 2014, with Dr Evelyn McElhinney poised to take over in the Chair in 2020. Since our inception we have become a vibrant group continuing to deliver on our objectives and actively supporting the development of the research evidence and best practice base for Health Literacy (HL) in England. In this report we describe the activities of the group 2018 - 2019.

Health Literacy Group UK Steering Group members

- Joanne Protheroe: Chair
- Evelyn McElhinney: Vice-Chair & Treasurer
- Gill Rowlands: Policy Lead
- Bernadette Bartlam
- Anne McCusker
- Tania Cork
- Graham Kramer
- Mike Oliver
- Mandy Wardle-McLeish

The steering group meets 3-4 times a year with face-to-face meetings and teleconferences.

- **Updates from Chair and members**

All – hugely successful Health Literacy conference in Belfast in February 2018!

- **Jo Protheroe**

Invited to deliver a Key Note presentation in Sydney at launch of Health Literacy Hub, by Don Nutbeam and also at first Research Symposium of Health Literacy Research Lab by Kirsten McCaffery – Dec 2018

Delivered lecture as part of Physiotherapy Best Practice day (regional) – Nov 2018
Key Note presentations to Unite-CPHVA Annual Conference – Bournemouth, Oct 2018

Presentations to PIF and Text Help – Manchester, May 2018

Letter to Matt Hancock (with Gill and Mandy) – Sept 2018

Health Literacy lectures to Undergrad Med students at Keele

Guest Lead Editor – Special Issue on Health Literacy, Diabetes Prevention and Self-Management of Diabetes Research Journal

Contributed to Chapter in International HL Handbook

Jo and Gill – Appointed NHS Clinical Advisors for Health Literacy; National Clinical Leads presentations and discussion

Jo, Gill, Mandy, Mike – part of newly formed NHS-E Health Literacy Collaborative

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- **Evelyn McElhinney**

HL has been added to Undergrad and Masters programs of Allied Health Professionals and Nursing students – Glasgow
Contributed to Global Health Promotion Journal special issue
Contributed to IUHPE Position paper on HL
Delivering presentations on Digital HL in Dublin and New Zealand 2018 / 2019

- **Gill Rowlands**

Delivered presentations, symposiums and workshops on HL Policy – European Public Health Conference
Will lead similar workshop at IUHPE conference in New Zealand
Presentation to UK CCC (Clinical Communication Committee)
Gill and Mandy – approached by NHS Digital (now includes NHS Choices in this) to improve health literacy content
Gill noted that if rewriting method so that its accessible – better for everyone – good findings – will present this to NHS Collaborative
Edited 3 Special Issues of Journals – Diabetes Research, IUPHE and Environmental Research and Public Health
In role as RCGP HL lead has placed Health Literacy as part of Person Centred Care programme – in the toolkit. Collaborating with David Paynton who leads this for the College
Led on Chapter for International HL Handbook
Published two Evidence Syntheses (1. HL policies and 2. Approaches to evaluation and measurement of health literacy) for WHO Europe
GR applied for, and was awarded, a £500 bursary to attend the second meeting of the WHO Europe Health Information Initiative on Measuring Organisational and Population health literacy (MPHOL). Attendance at the meeting will benefit HL UK in the following ways:

1. Maintenance of the HL UK profile internationally, as the key national umbrella group for HL in the UK
2. An opportunity to apply for funding for a UK health literacy survey as part of MPOHL. Such a survey would produce key contemporaneous data on the prevalence and impact of low HL in the UK.

- **Bernadette Bartlam**

New job in Singapore – flying the flag for Health Literacy – not yet at a strategic level – but increasing profile and aiming for this. Has applied to join the Asian Health Literacy Association
Delivered invited presentation to Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (ARISE), Singapore: 2nd Research Symposium: Public Health and Community on HL and Health Trainers in Diabetes (UK study)
Developed MSc in Research Methods, includes component on HL

- **Anne McCusker**

New Steering group member – Welcome!!

- **Tania Cork**

Currently writing a Health Literacy module for post-grad pharmacy Diploma course at Keele. Delivered many workshops to community pharmacists in North and South Staffs, Stoke and Shropshire – raising awareness of importance of HL and how community pharmacists can support patients taking their medicines

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Approached by Thea Pharmaceuticals to improve their overall HL environment by looking at their website / PILs / telephone messages. HL training has been given to the senior management team

Working on a training package for Staffordshire County Council, to be delivered to Carers. The training will be in relation to helping carers understand medicines better and be able to teach-Back the information to their patients.

- **Graham Kramer**

Written Chapter for International HL Handbook

Teaching / training new cohorts of Practice Nurses

Peer reviewing HL/Inequalities Health Scotland nursing module

Accepted an offer to Chair a Steering Group – Scottish Library and Innovation

Council '***Building the Librarian Role into the Multi-Professional Healthcare Team: A Citizen-Led Collaborative Service Model to Support Self-Management and Health Literacy***'

"The aim is to create a new service model connecting librarians, citizens, healthcare professionals and third sector in dynamic teams, to support self-management, shared decision-making and health literacy. This service model will include a focus on enablement through digital tools. It will offer support across a range of health and care needs, including a special focus on vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion."

Took part in a Citizens Jury for Realistic Medicines Agenda on Shared Decision Making - will-be a launch event in Feb 2019

Mike Oliver

Contacted by Cancer Research UK who have recognised a need to update their website to make it more accessible – working with them to improve this

Frequently asked for advice by other local authorities around the UK for advice on how to establish a health literacy strategy

- **Mandy Wardle-McLeish**

Completed the Update of Skilled for Health Programme

Completed a Public Health Module for Post Grad Pharmacists at De Monfort – with a section on HL. Possibility of a module in HL

Delivered a master class for Public Health Registrars in North East

The two largest Breast Ca charities in UK have combined and Mandy is helping with review of materials

Helped Alzheimers UK revise their PILs for BAME, and produce a YouTube video

Worked with MSK Health Provider in Pennine – work on Shared Decision Making and HL awareness

- **Robyn Till**

Co-opted into Health Literacy group to support development of new website

Redesigned HL website – and associated headed paper

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Summary

In the last year the Health Literacy Research Group has continued to develop and grow; we are revising our strategy in the light of our growth so that it is 'fit for purpose'. We will continue to develop and deliver our seminar programme, and plan to hold our next conference in Spring 2020 (Newcastle, April 20th tbc).

An important focus next year will be to continue to inform policy development in the NHS with, we expect and hope, a real impact on patient care.