

Editorial.

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Editorial

Catherine Homer

Deputy Editor, Perspectives in Public Health

Welcome to the July edition of Perspectives in Public Health. The range of papers in this unthemed edition represent key public health challenges and research from right across the globe. My new role as deputy editor of the journal gives me the permission to reflect back to my previous career in Public Health based in both a Local Authority and formerly a Primary Care Trust. What is very clear to me, is that many of the public health challenges we faced some ten plus years ago have not disappeared; however papers in this edition highlight the new ways of thinking and approaches that exist to inform policy, commissioning and research. This current issue features three original research papers and whilst the subject matter differs, they offer complementary learning for public health practitioners on the use of existing data (Mak et al), the need for developing data sources (Akanuwe et al) and adopting new approaches to public health advocacy (Mindell et al). The piece by Mak et al explores the cross-sectional relationship between the historic built environment and social capital, using analysis of existing data sets. They found that living in areas of greater historic built environment improves relationships, social networks, support and trust in communities. Interviews with public health practitioners in the East Midlands area of the UK explored how the development of an integrated lifestyle database has the potential to inform future public health policy, service commissioning and development (Akanuwe et al). I really enjoyed the piece by Mindell and colleagues who promote the 'Middle Out Perspective' which is nicely brought to life for readers using detailed case studies from 'Action on Smoking and Health' (ASH) which is a public health charity set up by the Royal College of Physicians to end the harm caused by tobacco and 'Living Streets' whose mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more. A narrative review conducted by Kaur and colleagues explores the stigma facing people with Type 1 Diabetes across the world. The impacts of stigma on people with diabetes and their caregivers are far-reaching including employment, education and quality of life. The paper highlights a need to increase public awareness and education of the impacts of Type 1 Diabetes across the globe. It has been great to read more content from different continents on participatory and coproduction approaches to public health and research (which builds on our special edition published in July 2022 and edited by Professor Jane South) through our In Practice pieces. Barrett highlights how longitudinal qualitative research can be used to develop relationships and rapport with young people and facilitate meaningful conversations to inform policy and practice decision making. Whilst Kurniawan and global partners present the objectives of a global consortium focussing on surveillance of health and health related risk among adolescents and young people in seven Sub-Saharan African countries. The current topics and opinions in this edition focus on participatory arts, refugees and mental health (Green) and climate change (Stanhope), areas increasingly talked about in national and international news. Green's paper highlights the increased risk of poor mental health for refugee populations and how arts-based interventions have an ability to increase a sense of community and belonging, confidence and resilience. Finally, the feature piece of this edition 'The threat of gambling to public health in Ghana: time to act' highlights the need to increase commercial and political awareness about the harms of gambling and marketing especially focussing on children's exposure. Badu and colleagues succinctly summarise the existing rhetoric of 'responsible gambling' framing gambling and its harms as personal responsibility, which aligns closely with

the comments from Jim McManus in the recent special issue on health inequalities. I hope you enjoy reading the variety of articles in this edition, which have certainly spanned a range of health promoting disciplines.