Special Interest Group
Integrated Care in Small Island Systems
Small Islands.....Big Ambitions

Purpose
This Special Interest Group (SIG) aims to facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange and peer support / coaching on planning, commissioning, delivering and evaluating people centred integrated care in small island systems. It will enable small island systems to learn from each other, share examples of innovation and understand how multi-sectoral planning, financing and governance can build resilience, accelerate transformational change and health system strengthening, and make progress on sustainable development goals. It will offer Ministries, WHO and NGOs ready access to a cohort of experts on implementing people centred integrated care in the context of small island systems. The SIG will connect three distinct groups of small island systems:

- Small island states (population < 125,000) with high income economies
- Small island systems (state / region / municipality ) with population < 500,000
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/

All three groups experience specific challenges but share common issues such as outward migration combined with an ageing population and high levels of chronic disease; a limited workforce skills base within a small population; difficulties with recruitment and retention of specific specialist staff; and lack of economies of scale resulting in high costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation, communication and services; and a reliance on public sector.

Members
The SIG is for practitioners, managers, researchers, students, educational providers, regulators, policy makers and professional leaders involved in planning, delivering and evaluating Integrated Care in small island systems. If you have an interest in Integrated Care in Small Island Systems please contact Marie Curran, SIG facilitator, with your name; organisation; email contact; and role at: IFICscotland@integratedcarefoundation.org

Get Involved
Please share your examples of practice, experience or resources to help us build the SIG knowledge content. Propose a question or an issue for SIG members to discuss, or suggest topics for future activities by signing up to access the SIG resources at: https://integratedcarefoundation.org/ific-members-network/special-interest-groups
**SIG Leads:** Three systems will work as a core group to lead the SIG:

- The Isle of Man Department of Health and Social Care
- The Seychelles Ministry of Health
- IFIC Scotland

The core team, knowledgeable and passionate about implementing people centred integrated care in small island systems, will work together to:

- Develop and update the annual workplan
- Identify specific topic areas to explore together
- Mobilise their networks to source and share resources, updates, and learning opportunities that can be uploaded to the SIG
- Encourage members to use the SIG as a discussion forum
- Contribute blogs about their work or local developments
- Participate in SIG virtual meetings and, if possible, IFIC conference workshops
- Host or contribute to SIG Webinars

**Activities**

The SIG will provide a platform for members to share experience, examples of good practice, signpost practical resources, and agree and collaborate on research, education, coaching and evaluation priorities for small island systems. SIG members will shape the scope of SIG activities and outputs. These may include:

- Good practice case studies and practical resources to support transformation
- IFIC Conference workshops
- Online peer support and blogs
- Summer Schools; Study Visits or Twinning activities
- Webinars and virtual learning events
- Policy briefing and consensus documents
- Evidence reviews
- Collaborative research and evaluation

**Potential topics**

- Place based models of care
- First responders and resilience
- Cross sector governance and funding models
- Innovation in active and healthy ageing
- Integrated planning and delivery of long term care
- Role of community hospitals in small islands
- Approaches to commissioning off island treatment
- Strategic partnerships with HEIs for ‘hub and spoke’ training
- Integrated workforce development
SIG Moderators

Angela Murray, Interim CEO, Department of Health and Social Care, Isle of Man

Angela came to the Island in 1979 and in 1984 entered her Mental Health Nurse training at what was then a large psychiatric hospital. Following appointment as a Registered Mental Health Nurse she returned to the UK for further study which included Forensic Mental Health. She then had a successful career in both the NHS and in private healthcare where she worked as Business Development Director and Operations Director for two successful providers.

In 2015 she was asked to provide director-level management of the Island’s Mental Health services. From there she became Director of Community Care and merged Community Health, Adult Social Care, Primary Care and Mental Health into a single Directorate. This meant she was able to incorporate the skills of business development and commissioning into her role to further develop community services in the provision of integrated care. She is currently working for the Isle of Man Government as the Interim CEO.

David Ashford MHK, Minister for Health and Social Care on the Isle of Man, noted that “an island of 84,000 people is perfectly placed to make true integration of services a reality”.

Delivering Longer

Healthier Lives

Anne Mills, Director, Scholl Academic Centre, CEO Hospice Isle of Man

As Director, Anne is fast establishing the Scholl Academic Centre as a Centre of Excellence in Integrated Care and is developing the centre’s reputation as such. Anne also leads the SIG for Palliative and End of Life Care and is Co-Lead for the Compassionate Communities SIG.

Collaboration is second nature to Anne and she has established an extensive network of partnerships to ensure the people of the Isle of Man and beyond have access to evidenced based Integrated Palliative and End of Life Care that is within and supports wider systems Integration. She is tirelessly committed to people centred values and believes that populations fair better in a dynamic and active research culture that focuses on translational research explicitly linked with systems improvement and integration.
The Seychelles Ministry of Health
The Seychelles have achieved universal health coverage and aspire to become the hub of person-centered integrated care in the Indian Ocean. In 2018, the Ministry of Health, the Medical and Dental Council, the Nurses and Midwives Council, and the Health Professionals Council, held their third annual symposium on Person Centred Care and Quality. Staff shared examples of innovation that build on the strengths of local communities and professionals – from family nurse projects to health education and support for self management – despite significant workforce and logistical challenges. Although classified as a high income country, Seychelles is one of 52 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that have specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Spread over three regions: the Caribbean; Pacific; and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS), SIDS have fragile natural environments that are particularly vulnerable to global climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise, and have limited resilience to natural disasters. This volatility compounds the challenges they already face in common with more developed small island systems.

Dr Bernard Valentin, Principal Secretary, Seychelles Ministry of Health
As Principal Secretary for Health, Dr Bernard Valentin is responsible for formulation and implementation of national health policy and strategy for the Seychelles. He is a fervent patient advocate and has been one of the pioneers of person-centred and integrated care in Seychelles. He has also been one of the founders and main supporters of the Seychelles Patients Association. Bernard has also served as Chairman of the Seychelles Medical and Dental Council from 2013 to 2018, as a member of the National Assembly (Parliament) of Seychelles from 1998 to 2002 and on the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) from 2011 to 2013. He swims and writes creatively and has two published novels in Seychelles’ Creole language.

Dr Conrad Shamlaye, Seychelles Ministry of Health
Dr Conrad Shamlaye is keenly interested in promoting community engagement in health and ensuring that health features prominently in the national development agenda. He qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Glasgow, and has specialist qualifications in epidemiology (London) and health economics (York). His career in the Seychelles health system includes clinical and public health practice, research, management and health policy development. He has held the post of Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Special Advisor to the Minister and is currently a health policy advisor. He has been closely involved in the development of the Seychelles health system, and has also participated in international health through the World Health Organization, the Commonwealth and regional health and development organisations. He is currently also the Chairman of the Public Health Authority and Chairman of the National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation.
IFIC Scotland
With over 790 islands, Scotland has considerable experience of the special challenges and opportunities of delivering health and care in rural, remote and island settings. Most of the inhabited islands are clustered within six health and social care partnerships. Legislation to integrate health and social care in Scotland is part of a long term commitment to public service reform to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for citizens, empower local communities and invest in prevention and asset based community development approaches. Island communities in Scotland have much to share about their experience of integrating care and are keen to learn from innovations by other small island systems.

Dr. Sarah-Anne Munoz, University of the Highlands and Islands
Sarah, a Health Geographer and Reader in Rural Health and Wellbeing, leads a team of researchers within the Division of Rural Health and Wellbeing at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness. Sarah-Anne’s particular research interests are in the areas of community engagement and co-production; community-led health and wellbeing promoting initiatives; social prescribing; social enterprise and health; and interactions between nature/landscape and wellbeing. Sarah-Anne was co-editor of one of the first books on social enterprise and health (Community Co-Production: Social Enterprise in Remote and Rural Communities) and is currently co-editing a forthcoming volume on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Rural Regions. She is an advocate of the benefits of international collaboration and comparative research and collaborates, in particular, with colleagues in Australia and US.

Kirsty Brightwell, Medical Director, and GP, NHS Shetland
Following University in Aberdeen, SHO posts throughout Scotland and New Zealand, Kirsty undertook GP training in Inverness before moving to the Western Isles in 2008. She has worked in a variety of GP roles including clinical lead for various initiatives, GP trainer and GP mentor. She became the Cluster Quality Lead and Associate Medical Director for Primary Care in 2016 working within the Western Isles Health and Social Care Partnership. In 2020 she was appointed as Medical Director in NHS Shetland. She was in cohort 1 of Project Lift’s Leadership Cubed programme. A traveller from an early age, Kirsty hails from London via Malaysia and New Zealand. Kirsty has 2 boys who are fanatical about mountain biking and a husband who is saving the world through airborne wind energy. A keen swimmer she is struggling to move into triathlon due to an adverse reaction to cold water.
SIG Coordination and Support

Anne Hendry, IFIC Senior Associate and Director IFIC Scotland

Anne is a geriatrician who has held a number of national clinical lead posts in Scotland including the Long Term Conditions Collaborative, Healthcare Quality Strategy, Reshaping Care for Older People programme, and Integrated Helath and Social Care. As a Senior Associate with IFIC she supports international knowledge exchange on people centred integrated care and is Director for IFICs hub in Scotland. Anne led the UK participation in the European Joint Action on Frailty 2017-2019 and was lead author for the first WHO Practice Brief on continuity and coordination of care.

Marie Curran, IFIC Scotland Coordinator

As Co-ordinator for IFIC Scotland, Marie supports a number of IFIC Special Interest Groups and administers the monthly Integrated Care Matters Webinars Series. She has a background in producing digital media, training staff on the use of IT systems, and providing project management and improvement support to health and social care partners.

More information about integrated care in Scotland is available at [www.HSCScotland.scot](http://www.HSCScotland.scot) and at the [IFIC Scotland](http://IFICScotland) pages.