

POPULATION PROJECTIONS WORKING GROUP (PPWG)

Work Plan Update as at 26 September 2006

This document details the work plan which will be reported on at the meetings of the Population Projections Working Group (PPWG). Progress on items will be documented and if necessary the work plan will be amended to take account of any new developments.

Item No	Piece of Work	<i>Action/Expected Completion Date</i>	Progress to 26 September 2006
<i>Mortality and Fertility Scaling Factors</i>			
<i>Person TBC</i>			
1.	Investigate the method to scale the national age specific fertility and mortality scaling factors. Consider whether it is possible to calculate fertility and mortality rates for areas within Scotland.	<p><i>a) Investigate the method used by ONS to produce national rates to see if can be used for areas within Scotland.</i></p> <p><i>b) Look into whether other methods could be used.</i></p> <p><i>This work may be contracted out for completion by TBC</i></p>	No progress.

Item No	Piece of Work	Action/Expected Completion Date	Progress to 26 September 2006
<i>Controlling the results to the national total</i> <i>Esta Clark</i>			
2.	Investigate the effect of controlling the results to the national total using the current system.	<p>a) <i>Run the current system using the uncontrolled option by end August 2006.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Run the current system using the uncontrolled option and uncontrolled migration assumptions by end August 2006.</i></p> <p>c) <i>Investigate the effect the RAS Principle has on the age and sex structure of areas by end August 2006.</i></p> <p>d) <i>Investigate other methods for controlling results to the national average by end Sept 2006.</i></p> <p>e) <i>Investigate 'bottom up' methods including the consistency of data sources for projection areas by end Sept 2006.</i></p>	<p>This work is partly complete but needs to be written up.</p> <p>Sharon Meighan a new Assistant Statistician is starting on 2 October and will be helping to complete this work.</p>

Item No	Piece of Work	Action/Expected Completion Date	Progress to 26 September 2006
<i>Economic Factors in population projections</i> <i>Cecilia Macintyre</i>			
3.	Investigate whether Economic Factors should be taken into account in population projections.	<p><i>a) Find out whether other countries include economic factors in their population projections.</i></p> <p><i>b) Consult statistical, economic, planning and policy colleagues in the Scottish Executive for their views including the ASG group on Demography.</i></p> <p><i>c) Consult ONS, WAG and NISRA for their views on including economic factors into population projections.</i></p> <p><i>d) Consult local authorities about whether they currently use economic factors in their projections and how they do this.</i></p> <p><i>All by end Nov 2006.</i></p>	Meetings have taken place in the Scottish Executive to discuss incorporating economic factors in to the GROS projections. A short-life internal working group is to be set up to progress this further. More details will be given at item 5 on the agenda.

Item No	Piece of Work	Action/Expected Completion Date	Progress to 26 September 2006
<i>Migration assumptions for population projections Esta Clark / Cecilia Macintyre / Bryan Cunningham</i>			
4.	Investigate methods of making migration assumptions for population projections, including adaptations of the current method and other methods.	<p><i>a) Look at the effect of using a different time period for the current method i.e. the effect of using a five year average compared with, say a 10 year average.</i></p> <p><i>b) Use the current system to produce a natural change only projection to look at the effect of the current migration assumptions.</i></p> <p><i>c) Look in to the possibility of using a propensity to migrate method.</i></p> <p><i>d) Investigate the method used to allocate international migration to local authorities in the migration estimates process.</i></p> <p><i>e) Investigate the way in which the age / sex distribution of international migrants is derived for the migration estimates.</i></p> <p><i>f) Compare the age and sex distributions of the migration assumptions used in the 2004-based projections with the distributions in the migration estimates for the previous 5 years, also compare to NHSCR distributions and also uncontrolled CHI distributions.</i></p> <p><i>g) Update work to look at the effect of controlling the CHI migration adapt to the NHSCR for council areas.</i></p> <p><i>e) Investigate the method used to give an age and sex distribution to the migration assumptions.</i></p> <p>All by end Nov 2006.</p>	Work has started looking at the current method to produce migration estimates and the sources used. Presentation on some work is at agenda item 9.

Item No	Piece of Work	Action/Expected Completion Date	Progress to 26 September 2006
<i>Other methods for making population projections including available software</i> <i>Esta Clark</i>			
5.	Review other methods for making population projections including any available software.	<p><i>a) Carry out a literature review of existing methods by end July 2006.</i></p> <p><i>b) Once the other items in this work plan are complete draw up an requirements list for software and investigate the suitability of existing software and recommend whether software should be bought or an in-house solution developed by end Dec 2006.</i></p>	<p>Literature review completed 31 July and results are in PPWG (06) 10.</p> <p>An evaluation copy of PopGroup has been obtained.</p>

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<p><i>Accuracy of past projections</i> <i>Esta Clark / Bryan Cunningham / Eileen Crichton</i></p>			
6.	Investigate the accuracy of past projections by comparing results from previous projections with mid-year estimates.	<p><i>a) Investigate the accuracy of past projections by comparing them with the mid-year estimates by Council and NHS Board area and sex and broad age group (0-15, 16-64, 65+). To begin with this would use the 2004 MYEs as the actual figures and compare them to what the 2002-based projections predicted for 2004. Also look at what the 2004-based projections predicted for 2005.</i></p> <p><i>b) Next look at the performance of previous projections compared with the mid-year estimates, though this is complicated by the change to the base after 2001, but is probably of more interest.</i></p> <p>All by end August 2006.</p>	Completed. Paper at agenda item 8.

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<p><i>Support for demographic statistics</i> <i>Alistair Harvey/Eileen Cricton/Cecilia Macintyre</i></p>			
7.	Investigate the need for support for and outputs of demographic statistics by local authorities, NHS Boards, SE statistical and policy colleagues.	<p><i>a) Write to local authorities, NHS Boards, ISD, SE and others asking about their requirements for analytical support and outputs for demographic statistics by end August 2006.</i></p> <p><i>b) Summarise results for PPWG by end Sept 2006.</i></p>	Partly Completed. Paper on local authority views at agenda item 7 in PPWG (06) 08.

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<p><i>Requirements for geographic areas</i> <i>Cecilia Macintyre / Esta Clark / Eileen Crichton / Alistair Harvey</i></p>			
8.	Investigate the geographies needed by users of projections as well as the feasibility of producing accurate projections for these areas.	<p><i>a) Write to users (local authorities, NHS Boards, ISD, SE and others) asking about their geography requirements for projections by end August 2006.</i></p> <p><i>b) Investigate how feasible it would be to produce projections for these areas and how accurate they would be by end June 2007.</i></p>	<p>Meetings have been held with SE Planning colleagues, about their requirements.</p> <p>Local Authority views are at item 7 on the agenda (PPWG (06) 08).</p>

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<i>Variant Projections</i> <i>Esta Clark / Bryan Cunningham</i>			
9.	Investigate running the current system using GAD's variant projections.	a) <i>Run the current system using alternative migration assumptions which are consistent with GAD's variant projections by end Oct 2006.</i>	No progress.