Reflections: Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Conference
Reflections by Janice Toplass, IPC Nurse Specialist, UKOTs Programme

October was a fantastic month for promoting Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as the programme was able to support 8 national IPC leads and focal points from 7 UKOTs: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands and Montserrat; to attend the UK’s IPS Conference in Liverpool, UK. We had 2 posters from our UKOTs IPC and AMR network in the conference with Dr Tiffannie Skerritt from Montserrat delivering an excellent poster talk.

The Conference had 3 main themes: Antimicrobial Resistance, IPC and the Environment, and Preparedness. It exceeded expectations with the wealth and breadth of knowledge catering to all, through world class speakers, academic lectures, poster presentations, industry stands and networking giving everyone inspiration and fresh ideas to take back to the workplace.

Taking the opportunity whilst everyone was together we held an additional training day and were joined by Dr Natalie Wright, Health Protection Lead. This allowed more networking between UKOT colleagues, time to reflect on the learning from the conference and an opportunity to talk about IPC care bundles and quality improvement.

The feedback has been excellent and colleagues have many ‘take homes’ to explore in relation to their own healthcare systems for improving IPC and patient care.
Prison Mental Health Service Provision in Montserrat

In October, Ian Rummery, a Community Psychiatric Nurse in St Helena, visited Montserrat with Sunita Sturup-Toft, Consultant in Global Public Health, to pilot the Prison Mental Health Standards developed by the UKOTs Prison Health Network. Ian has been involved in developing prison mental health services in St Helena for the past 5-6 years, so his clinical perspective and Sunita’s public health perspective was a great match for this visit to Montserrat.

Ian reflected on the visit as being an excellent opportunity to observe the existing structures and processes of the prison and mental health services; identify problems within the mental health legislation in Montserrat; and support Montserrat colleagues in improving mental health services and treatment pathways in the prison.

The peer support approach to this visit was highly favoured by all because it welcomed knowledge sharing from multiple perspectives, which was enabled through having real life conversations.

UKOTs Power Outage Project

As part of the UKOTs programme, the Behavioural Science and Insights Unit conducted an evidence assessment on public behaviour during power outages to develop actionable recommendations for mitigating negative impacts on health and wellbeing.

We found that negative impacts of power outages could be minimised if essential needs are met, highlighting the importance of preparedness at individual, community and government levels. Therefore, government agencies are recommended to map what actions people could take to meet essential needs (incl. food, hydration, safety, light, information), and how the government can support (e.g., putting in place agreements with community centres and supermarkets to store supplies, providing information about how residents can prepare and what to do during an outage).

We specifically recommend co-producing response plans and materials with communities, especially with those needing targeted support during outages (e.g. people using electric medical devices, people with alternative communication needs).

During an outage, clear, honest and accessible government communications are paramount.

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<tr>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>HOW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate what is known</td>
<td>Communicate consistently and frequently</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate what is not known</td>
<td>Use trusted messengers</td>
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<td>Explain what the Government is doing</td>
<td>Set expectations that information may change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tell the public what they should do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain when and where more information will be available</td>
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Given the limited evidence for small island contexts, we are planning a survey on residents’ experiences of power outages in Montserrat.

Please contact bsiu@ukhsa.gov.uk for additional information.
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