EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

for

Health & Wellbeing / Public Health Development Programmes

Local Authorities

Background

Public Health and improving health and wellbeing is a multi-organisational function and the work of PH Development within NESC encompasses workforces beyond the NHS, such as local authorities, the Health Protection Agency, the voluntary sector, etc. (described as the wider workforce).

Funding has been allocated by the Strategic Health Authority to NESC to provide a number of development programmes to increase the public health knowledge and skill of both practitioners and the wider workforce.

This programme focuses on local authorities and the staff within them who have a role in public health and provides an opportunity for them to develop their capacity and capability to increase their contribution to improving health and wellbeing and to reducing health inequalities.

We are interested in receiving Expressions of Interest from local authorities at any tier

The application may be from a partnership involving :-

• A lead local authority
• other local authorities and/or
• third sector organisations

providing health and social care services that the lead authority wishes to involve in this development programme. The invitation is being sent out through the Directors of Public Health across South Central to forward appropriately to their local authority colleagues.

This work offers an opportunity to local authorities to strengthen the function of their public health and well being work, supporting them to identify and reflect on their activities and the staff who contribute to improving health and reducing health inequalities, with input from an experienced public specialist representing NESC, with considerable experience in this field.

The NESC representative will work with senior key contacts to identify members of the public health workforce using the classification developed for the Chief Medical Officer’s project to strengthen the public health function, which is inclusive of a wide range of roles and organisations. The mapping involved also explores barriers and facilitating factors to developing the authority as a public health organisation. The process itself is developmental, and recommendations for further development will be produced. This work will develop and strengthen local partnership and improve support for the implementation of local area agreements.

Developing Local Authorities as Public Health Organisations

Aim & Objectives

To contribute to the development of local authorities (and its partners) as public health organisations through

• strengthening the public health function by identifying which services contribute to it
• establishing the likely available workforce resource over the next 3 to 5 years
• establishing where there are knowledge and skill gaps
• raising awareness of public health across the organisations
• developing any existing partnerships for public health

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Role & Responsibilities of Participating Authorities

To identify a lead for the project to act as a liaison point and advocate within a local authority to secure senior agreement to conduct of the project and set up meetings with around six directors or heads of service who can inform on workforce in each service.

The local authority lead would be a local government officer with responsibility for health matters, or a PCT employee, who is in a position to influence the agenda of the senior management team of the authority, secure agreement of senior officers and facilitate access by NESC’s representative to the authority.

The Project

Through working with the identified local government officer, NESC’s representative will interview senior members of authority staff about public health activities and roles. Data will be collected on the size and classification of the workforce to produce a profile of the authority with recommendations for further development and possible access to NESC support for this development. This represents an input of 8 days for a second tier authority, rising to 11 days for a unitary authority.

The time involved for local authority staff might include presentation of the project on a senior management team agenda, one-hour interviews with six senior officers and continuing support by the lead contact to facilitate the NESC representative’s access.

Timing and Applications

The work will take place during the coming financial year. If interested, please complete the attached form and return it to debbie.durrant@nesc.nhs.uk We undertake to respond to your application within three weeks.

If you would like to know more about the project, please contact Joanna Chapman-Andrews. A report of earlier work in South East Hampshire is now in preparation and will be supplied on request when available.