Wessex School of Public Health Highlight Report

April 2017 – March 2018

Find out what the Wessex School of Public Health has been doing during 2017-18
Wessex School of Public Health

The Wessex School of Public Health aims to:

• Provide strategic leadership on the development of the core public health and wider workforces across Wessex.
• Provide quality training, education and development programmes to the public health and wider workforces in Wessex.
• Provide expert health advice and support to workforce development.
• Build public health capacity and capability through workforce development.
• Be an example of good practice nationally.

We are pleased to present the annual School of Public Health report which provides highlights on the work we have achieved over 2017-18.

Public Health Development Leads Network

The Public Health Development Leads Network is a key enabler in the development and delivery of public health and wider workforce developments in Wessex. The Network supports the delivery of the School’s priorities including:

• The Public Health Practitioner Programme.
• Public Health Leadership development of the public health workforce.
• Training, Education and CPD of the Public Health Workforce.
• Public health development of the wider workforce.

Development initiatives supported by the network include:

• Public Health Leadership Development (self-awareness and team dynamics).
• Working in a Political Environment workshops (delivered by LGA).
• Workforce Intelligence data gathering.
• Localised CPD programmes developed.

The network is made up of PH Development Leads from Portsmouth, Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and PHE South East.
Core Public Health Workforce Development

**Wessex Speciality Training Scheme**

Specialty Training in Public Health is part of the national training programme to develop Public Health Consultants. Public Health is a multidisciplinary specialty where trainees come from a variety of medical and non-medical backgrounds. In the UK the body that oversees training and professional standards is the Faculty of Public Health and the training schemes are managed and delivered locally. Specialty Trainees will work through a minimum 48 month programme undertaking professional exams and core pieces of work to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme.

The Wessex Speciality Training programme in total has 31 Trainees of which 24 are currently on programme at different stages and 7 are currently out of programme undertaking primary research and evaluation (see graph below). Recruitment to the programme this year saw 5 new Trainees join the scheme in August 2017.

**Public Health Practitioner Training**

The Wessex Public Health Practitioner Development programme has been established since 2010. The Public Health Practitioner Development Programme is a regulatory framework which aims to protect the public via the development of agreed professional standards providing quality assurance of the workforce to a common and agreed standard. Since inception the Wessex Scheme has supported a total of 68 practitioners to become registered as Public Health Professionals demonstrating their competence to practice public health.

During 2017-18 the scheme supported 15 individuals to become Public Health Practitioners (see graph) who came from a range of backgrounds including Public Health Teams, Transport, Voluntary Sector and Public Health Commissioned Services. Currently there are 15 practitioners who are with an Assessor and 13 are updating their e-portfolio ready to apply for an Assessor. In 2017 the Wessex Scheme recruited 22 people to its Cohort 8 which started in October 2018.
Wessex Public Health Conference 2018

Following a review of the Wessex Public Health Network and CPD programme in 2017 it was agreed that an annual Public Health conference would be delivered to provide CPD, networking and sharing of public health practice. The inaugural Public Health conference took place on the 22nd March 2018 and was attended by nearly 200 delegates from across Wessex. The conference was developed by a collaboration from across Wessex and focused on ‘Making the Case for Investment in Prevention’ which consisted of four themes:

- Public Health & Health Psychology
- Public Health & Genomics
- Public Health in an age of Austerity
- Local Public Health Action.

The conference was a huge success and very much a Wessex Public Health community owned event.

Health Protection Conference

Identified as a need for the workforce who have a specific remit for health protection to receive quality training, education and CPD on key topics in health protection. This event, now in its 3rd year of delivery is a collaboration between HEE Wessex and PHE South East. The event was targeted at Health Protection staff, Local Authority teams, CCGs and the NHS. This year’s event took place in July 2017 and included a focus on air pollution. The event was attended by over 40 delegates from across Wessex.
Wider Public Health Workforce Development

Making Every Contact Count - (MECC)

Making Every Contact Count is a core public health wider workforce development programme currently being rolled out across Wessex and contributes to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Dorset Prevention STP priorities. The programme provides training to target workforces in developing skills and knowledge to support behaviour change. Workforces are supported to develop healthy conversation skills underpinned by philosophies which work to a person centred approach and encourage self-management and self-care.

The programme takes a Train the Trainer approach to developing individuals to become MECC Trainers who then deliver MECC training to target workforces. During 2017-18 a total of 75 MECC Trainers were trained and a total 435 frontline workforces were trained to deliver MECC.

MECC is also being embedded into future workforce training and work has begun with Higher Education Institutions in Wessex to integrating MECC into all health curricula including Nursing and Social Care.

Healthy Living Pharmacy Workforce Development

Community Pharmacies are a key community asset for local people and is often the first port of call for health advice and support. HEE Wessex in partnership with NHS England provided Health Champion training to 57 Community Pharmacies in Wessex to support them to become registered Health Living Pharmacies. This initiative developed key knowledge of a total of 79 customer facing staff around health and wellbeing enabling them to gain the Level 2 RSPH Understanding Health Improvement qualification. The second phase of the project will develop the pharmacy workforce in MECC.
Public Health Community Fellowship

Now in its fourth year, the Public Health Community Fellowship supports Foundation Doctors to undertake a PH project supported by Public Health Registrars. The programme offers a unique opportunity for Doctors to develop core skills in public health and broaden awareness and understanding of population health.

This programme is developed, delivered, and evaluated by Public Health Specialty Registrars and has received Commendation from HEE.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Days for Teachers

Teachers not only play a key role in the education of children and young people but also a vital pastoral role in their health and wellbeing. HEE Wessex have been supporting the ITE Health Day for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) delivered by the University of Southampton School of Education. Over a 100 NQTs are supported to access knowledge and skills development workshops which focus on, emotional health, sexual health, physical activity, nutrition, MECC, safeguarding and a range of other topics in supporting them in their role as they start their teaching careers.
The NICE Guidance on Individual Behaviour Change outlines the different levels of behaviour change interventions and its applicability to supporting change. The School led on the development of a framework to translate the NICE Guidance to support training and education. The framework (see figure) was developed to enable organisations, education leads and commissioners to understand what type of behaviour change skills training should be provided for the workforce based on a number of factors. The overall purpose being that behaviour change training provision is appropriate and proportionate to the workforce. The next phase of this project will be to develop a toolkit to support the implementation of the framework.

**Childhood Obesity Apps No Obesity**

The development of two Apps (No Obesity Professionals and No Obesity Families) to support in the prevention and management of childhood obesity targeting professionals and families. The Apps focus on developing the workforce to support families around childhood obesity and enabling families to set behavioural goals to support their own health and wellbeing.

The Apps bring both workforce development and service delivery together which was a result of the collaboration that led the development of this project. The Apps are currently in the final stages before launch which will take place in the Autumn of 2018.
Next Steps and Priorities for 2018-19

Following the Comprehensive Spending Review the Wessex School of Public Health will be working more closely with the Thames Valley School of Public as a sub-regional team. This means the priorities for 2018-19 will be developed sub-regionally, whilst keeping a balance with locality specific workforce development.