Status Report for PH DEVELOPMENT – December 2008

The next meeting of the South Central PH Education, Training and Development Strategic Advisory Board will take place on 12 December 2008. The Board is led by the South Central SHA Regional Director of Public Health/PH Executive and aims to develop and agree strategy across all education and training programmes for public health in South Central, taking account of related SHA work programmes, such as workforce planning and implementing the SHA vision for the Next Stage Review.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONER AND WIDER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Professional Development Programme

Public Health Development Leads group

- The 0.1 wte backfill for PH practitioners to undertake this role provides a local advocate and guide for skills, career and professional development in Public Health.
- The Learning Needs Assessment tool based on the PH Skills and Career Framework is now being piloted through learning sets.
- Approx 40 PH Practitioners are developing portfolios in preparation for ultimate registration as practitioners on the UK PH Register when available in 2009.
- Milton Keynes PCT PH Development lead role will re-commence in January 2009.
- Five learning sets for PH practitioners at levels 5-7 have been commissioned and are now being delivered across South Central to assess learning need and work towards developing the portfolios it is anticipated will be required to meet the assessment requirements for PH Practitioner registration when available on the UK Public Health Register in 2009.
- Led by the PHD Leads, the Isle of Wight and Southampton PH Practitioners are to participate in a workshop with the UK Public Health Register, to develop examples for the finalisation of standards for PH Practitioner regulation. These standards are now out for consultation until February 2009.
- Oxfordshire PCT has nominated a lead for PHD who commenced in October. Bucks PCT does not have the capacity to undertake the full role but a PH practitioner aims to attend the meetings; backfill is not paid to Bucks PCT for this work. Hampshire PCT’s lead has been replaced whilst on maternity leave.
- The Evaluation Report on the work of the PHD Leads Group has been published and demonstrates the great benefits the role offers for local development of public health competence and knowledge. [http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/professional_resources/public_health/ph_development_leads_group.aspx](http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/professional_resources/public_health/ph_development_leads_group.aspx)
- An abstract has been submitted for presentation of the work at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009.

Defined Specialist Development Support Programme 2008-9

- This programme is for people at senior/strategic level working in public health in specialist fields such as health improvement, health protection, health intelligence who wish to apply for support to develop retrospective portfolios for submission onto the UK Voluntary Register for PH Specialists.
- The first application to the UKPH Register is about to be submitted; another six people are involved in this programme.
- Group sessions and one-to-one support have been agreed throughout the year.
- South Central is represented on the national group which supports this work.

Public Health Education Bursary Scheme

- 22 applications to this Scheme were received; all but two have received funding for the PH courses and modules they wish to begin to or continue studying this year.
- In 2009 it is anticipated that NESC will offer one Education Bursary Scheme rather than the three of four individual schemes available this year. Agreements about the proportion of funding to various workforce groups and criteria for selection and funding will need to be negotiated and agreed.
The Public Health Course Guide
- This is now available, relating the content of public health modules of post graduate courses provided by universities in the South East to the PH Skills & Career Framework levels 5-7. The aim and purpose of the tool is to guide individuals, managers and course leaders to the public health competence which should make up academic study at these levels.
- A website is to be developed NESC IT to hold the data on Public Health academic courses, to make it more user-friendly and have the course providers keep it up to date. It is anticipated the website will be used by other regions over time.

2. PH Practitioner Training Scheme
- A second cohort of 5 practitioner trainees started the scheme in October. The first cohort of 5 trainees completed their placements with partner organisations during the summer recess from university and are now into their second year on the scheme.
- These 10 PH practitioner trainees are developing portfolios in preparation for registration.
- Meetings are now arranged regularly with the Mentors/Educational Supervisors of the Practitioner Trainees to discuss issues arising from the Scheme.
- An annual report will be available by the end of the year on the first year of the scheme.
- An abstract has been submitted for presentation of the work at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009.

3. Leading Improvement for Health and Wellbeing Programme
- The programme was launched on 25 November by Prof. John Newton who sent out invitations from the Government Office.
- The programme has been commissioned from the Improvement Foundation www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP
- 60 senior people have been given places on the programme which will provide a series of 5 events and workshops throughout 2009 focussing on leadership, service improvement, health improvement and reducing health inequalities.
- Evaluation of the programme by an R&D Manager will include reviewing whether the Health Improvement element of the Programme can be integrated into, for example, Service Improvement and Leadership Programmes delivered by the SHA so that more NHS development programmes cover health improvement as part of the provision of quality services.

4. Developing Local Authorities as Public Health Organisations
- The final report on the pilot work with Hampshire PCT (South East) and Fareham, Gosport and Havant local authorities has been published and makes recommendations to take the work forward.
- Projects are underway this year with Buckinghamshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council for organisational development commencing in 2008-9.
- This programme makes close links with the Leading Improvement programme above, providing information for local authority leaders on the status of their workforce for public health.
- An abstract has been submitted for presentation of the work at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009.

Other related updates:

Regional Director of Public Health / SC Public Health Executive (Directors of PH)
- Prof. John Newton has invited the Staying Healthy Clinical Pathway group set up to report on this element of the work for the SHA’s response to the Next Stage Review has been asked to comment on the workforce, training and development implications of the report.
- The South Central Public Health Training, Education and Development Strategy is to be revised in the light of this work and the SHA’s workforce development strategy, Fit for the Future.

SE Teaching Public Health Networks (TPHN)
The work of the South East TPHN, led by the University of Southampton, focuses on developing elements of the children’s workforce in schools, working in partnership through a stakeholder group which includes the Teacher Development Agency (TDA).
In addition, the participation of a representative from the TPHN on the Strategic Advisory Board and work with the PH Development Programmes is intended to ensure that contracts commissioned by NESC from academic providers encompass public health competencies appropriately.

DH National Public Health Advisory Group
- The recent meeting of this group was postponed due to a change in chairing arrangements. Judy Jones has now been appointed as the new chair.
- South Central is represented on this group through NESC PH Development and contributes the learning from its various programmes to other regions and organisations, including the Faculty of Public Health and the UK PH Register Board.

Health Trainers
- A successful South Central Health Trainers Conference and Workshop was held on 25 September.
- An evaluation of HT services across South Central has been undertaken over the summer and a report produced; the findings of this report were presented at the conference to influence future work and are on the website http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/professional_resources/public_health/health_trainers.aspx
- Nationally, there is further funding from the DH through Reducing Health Inequalities to develop more roles related to Health Trainers, such as Health Trainer Champions with Level 2 qualifications in Understanding Health Improvement, awarded by the Royal Institute of Public Health www.riph.org.uk. The Health Trainers themselves are qualified to Level 3 with the City & Guilds Health Trainer Certificate www.cityandguilds.com. A substantial bid has been submitted to the DH by us to fund various projects.
- The South Central Health Trainer Hub is working with the Widening Participation work of the SHA to build health skills and competence in bands 1-4 of the NHS workforce.
- At the suggestion of the SC HT Hub, an abstract has been submitted for presentation of the national work of all the regional HT Hubs at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009. If accepted, this session will be chaired by the Director of PH lead for our SC HT Hub.

Skilled for Health
Four projects are underway within South Central, providing training courses to develop skills in language, literacy and numeracy, combined with health skills for people from deprived communities. Skilled for Health projects will receive further support through the extended funding proposed in the Health Inequalities Next Steps report. There is to be an event in the South East in March 2009 to share the learning from all the projects which have taken place this year, including the national pilot sites.

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NHS Education South Central (NESC) is part of the South Central Strategic Health Authority