Public Health Practitioner Academic Course Bursary Scheme 2010-11

INFORMATION PAPER

Background

The South Central Strategic Health Authority is committed to supporting the development of public health practitioners through a programme of learning opportunities of which this scheme forms a part. Public Health Practitioners work in roles that contribute to outcomes related to health protection, health improvement, academic public health, health and social care quality and/or health intelligence. They are likely to be working at levels equivalent to NHS Agenda for Change bands 5-7.

This scheme is open to staff employed in such roles by the NHS or Health and Social care Sector within the boundary of the South Central SHA, i.e. Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire (MOBBB) and Southampton, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth (SHIP).

It should be clarified that the few public health practitioners supported by the NESC Education Bursary Scheme last year who have already applied for continued funding, will now be supported by this Public Health Practitioner Academic Course Bursary Scheme. This handover process will be handled separately and managed internally within NESC and with direct contact with those involved.

Eligibility – the following criteria will apply when assessing applications:

- A minimum of four years’ employment within the health and social care sector
- Confirmation that funding for the course is not already provided by the South Central SHA education commissioning process
- Formal support from the employer and immediate line-manager confirming that the objectives of the training fit with the delivery of the employing organisation’s public health function
- Evidence of career or personal development within previous four years
- Evidence of aspiration to develop a public health career e.g. from a Personal Development Plan

Support Available – Awards will be made for 2010/11. Whilst it is hoped that further funding will be available in 2010-11 this cannot be guaranteed. Awards can consist of any combination of the following:

Course / module fees contribution: This can be for a new course, or for continued study on an existing course
• **Backfill contribution** to the employer to compensate for the work time lost while the individual is engaged in the learning activity. Documented assurance of release from existing work will be required by the manager and demonstrated through the application form.

• **Travel contribution**: Clear figures are necessary to show how the amount is reached; mileage would be repaid at 24p per mile and on submission of travel expense claims and receipts.

The maximum amount of an award for any individual will be £7,500 and should include an academic module/s or course. Backfill and / or travel contributions may also be requested - all requests should be through negotiation with the manager.

We will give due consideration to statements made by managers making it clear how backfill payments claimed will contribute to the public health development of other staff within their departments.

Successful applicants will be encouraged to join their local public health development network if they have not already done so.

**Procedure**

Public health practitioners interested in this scheme and meeting the eligibility criteria listed above, including manager agreement, should complete the corresponding application form. The form is also available on the Public Health Development pages of the NESC website: http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/about_nesc/departments/public_health_development.aspx

The deadline for completed application forms is **11 June 2010**

Response to applicants will be by **29 June 2010**

**Communication will mainly be by email.**

NB The applicant may be contacted by the Head of PH Development, Joanna Chapman-Andrews, or their local PHD Lead, to discuss the details of their application.

**It is recommended** that enquiries are made immediately to academic providers regarding places on courses commencing in the autumn. The Public Health Courses Guide website provides information on courses mapped against the public health skills & career framework: http://www.publichealthcoursesguide.nhs.uk/

Contact for queries:
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