PUBLIC HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES – June 2009

The third meeting of the South Central PH Education, Training and Development Strategic Advisory Board took place on 28 April 2009. 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. The Programme Plan discussed will be on the agenda at the next SC Public Health Executive meeting with Directors of Public Health across South Central. The next meeting of the Board will be on 20 October when several reports will be presented based on an evaluation of progress with business cases to support future funding.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONER AND WIDER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Professional Development Programme

Public Health Development Leads group
- The role played by nine senior PH practitioners to provide a service as a local advocate and guide for skills, career and professional development in Public Health is to be extended to one full day per week.
- The major task for the leads this year is the drafting of a workforce development plan for public health across their local area. This document has a timescale within the Programme Plan of end September 2009.

Public Health Practitioners
- Five learning sets for PH practitioners at levels 5-7 were concluded in April. A draft report is being finalised which demonstrates increases in confidence and competence levels across the four core areas of public health. The Learning Needs Assessment tool based on the PH Skills and Career Framework was used to assess training needs and provide appropriate workshops. Approximately 40 practitioners have thus begun the development of portfolios as early preparation for registration as practitioners on the UK PH Register when this becomes available.

Defined Specialist Development Support Programme
- 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 from South Central to the UKPH Register has been submitted; another six people are involved in this programme locally. It is open to anyone working at these levels in public health.
- Opportunities to join the programme of support (DSP Programme) are in August and February each year; group sessions and one-to-one guidance and advice is provided throughout the year

Public Health Education Bursary Scheme
- The NESC integrated Education Bursary Scheme is open for applications at the start of each calendar year. Bursaries of up to £5000 are available to people working in public health roles from the health and social care sector.

The Public Health Courses Guide
- This is now available as a searchable website, 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. [http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Doc_Links/PHSkills&CareerFramework_Launchdoc_April08.pdf](http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Doc_Links/PHSkills&CareerFramework_Launchdoc_April08.pdf)
- The aim and purpose of the website is to help individuals, managers and course leaders to identify the public health competence from the Framework which is comprised within academic study at these levels. [www.publichealthcoursesguide.nhs.uk](http://www.publichealthcoursesguide.nhs.uk)

2. PH Practitioner Training Scheme
- Ten PH practitioner trainees are currently participating in two cohorts on the Scheme which first started in October 2007.
- A third cohort has been recruited to commence the scheme in October this year
- The first cohort completes its participation in the Scheme in September, continuing to work on their master’s dissertations in the third year, with continued group support as required.
- All trainees are developing portfolios in same way as the PH practitioners described above.
- An evaluation report will be available at the end of the first two years of the scheme in the autumn.
3. Leading Improvement for Health and Wellbeing Programme
   - The third main event of this programme was held on 3rd June in Portsmouth. In addition to the five main events, two Improvement Methodology workshops were provided in April, one in Oxford and one at NESC in Otterbourne.
   - Details concerning the programme delivered by the Improvement Foundation, collaborating with the IDeA, can be found at www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP
   - 60 senior people have been nominated for places on the programme which focuses on leadership, service improvement, health improvement and partnership working to reduce health inequalities.
   - The final residential event will be held in November 2009.

4. Developing Local Authorities as Public Health Organisations
   - The workforce project report for public health with Portsmouth City Council has been completed and is now being presented internally within the Council.
   - Southampton City Council and Eastleigh Borough Council have commenced projects with NESC this year.
   - Milton Keynes have also expressed interest in similar work.
   - This programme makes close links with the Leading Improvement programme above, providing information for local programme leaders on the status of their workforce for public health and wellbeing.

SE Teaching Public Health Networks (TPHN)
   - The South East TPHN core role is to develop the wider workforce and also focuses on the children’s workforce in schools, working in partnership through a steering group.
   - Work is underway between NESC PHD and the lead for Education Commissioning with the SE TPHN co-ordinator to review how PH competence can be included in all commissioned NHS pre-registration courses.
   - Meetings are to be held with the SHA Leadership Team to explore how public health knowledge and skill can be included within all leadership courses provided by the NHS in South Central

Health Trainers
   - Nationally, there is funding from the DH to March 2011 to fund the South Central Health Trainer Hub 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.
   - South Central has been successful in gaining additional funding in this year for various projects relating to the development of the role of Health Trainers, including pilot work to assess the capacity for Occupational Health services to develop the role.
   - The Widening Participation work of NESC which builds skills and competence into bands 1-4 of the NHS workforce, including the uptake of language literacy numeracy courses, will work with the Skilled for Health training materials. These include health knowledge and skills for a similar workforce. The Skills for Life Champions will lead this work.
   - A workshop to present an overview of the national Health Trainer work was provided at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum held in Brighton in March 2009. This session was chaired by the Director of Public Health lead for our SC HT Hub.
   - The 08-09 national End of Year Report on Health Trainer Programmes is being compiled with a larger section on a description of the Health Trainer workforce itself. This will be available later in the year.

Skilled for Health
   - In addition to the three pilot projects in the South East taking part in the national pilot, four additional “associate” 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.
   - A regional bid to the Dept. of Health is in development and a Steering Group for the South East will soon be established to ensure implementation of the strategy.

http://www.continyou.org.uk/what_we_do/healthy_active_learning_communities/skilled_health

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