What is the PDWG doing?

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) through the Practitioner Development Working Group (PDWG) is working in partnership with other public health standard setting and stakeholder organisations to focus on prospective education training and assessment mechanisms for public health practitioners. The PDWG is currently working in conjunction with independent consultants to develop a possible assessment framework that will be accessible and appropriate for people aspiring to registration with UK Public Health Register (UKPHR).

How is work progressing?

The initial scoping and mapping of training and qualifications available to practitioners has now been completed and a final report has been produced. This work will inform the next phase of work, which is the development of a possible assessment framework. It is hoped that this framework will be accessible and applicable to people who are aspiring to train and become qualified as a practitioner through the prospective route and to practitioners wishing to assess their readiness for retrospective registration.

What about advanced practitioners?

The PDWG is currently concentrating on public health practitioner development. A public health practitioner is defined as working at level 5 of the Public Health Skills & Career Framework (PHSCF). There is currently national work that is being undertaken as part of the Regulation White Paper: Trust Assurance & Safety to define an Advanced Level of Practice across all health professions. The recommendations from this work will inform the developments with advanced practitioners who work at levels 6 & 7 of the PHSCF.

When is the framework going to be in place?

The PDWG will be working closely with the UKPHR to try to ensure the publishing and implementation of the assessment framework is timely with the introduction of practitioner registration. It is envisaged that the prospective training route will not be too dissimilar to the retrospective route allowing people to access their training requirements for their portfolio easily.

Will I need to do CPD?

The PDWG are also in the process of developing a CPD framework for practitioners and details of this will be released once the nationally emerging systems of regulation are established.

For further information or resources, please visit the practitioner development webpage http://www.fph.org.uk/prof_standards/practitioner_development/about/default.asp or contact Nic Donati at educ@fph.org.uk or via 020 7224 0642.