Status Report for PH DEVELOPMENT – October 2008

The first meeting of the South Central PH Education, Training and Development Strategic Advisory Board was held on 27 June, led by the South Central SHA Regional Director of Public Health/PH Executive. Terms of Reference were agreed and the Strategy and Action Plan discussed. This will be revised prior to the next meeting in December 2008.

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
• Meetings of the PHD Leads Group will be by teleconference on 6 November and in person on 11 December
• 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.
• 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 is being finalised.
• An abstract is to be 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.
• Seven people are actively involved in this programme.
• Group sessions and one-to-one support have been agreed throughout the year.

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.
• A meeting has been arranged with the Education Commissioning team to ensure there is not duplication and that public health modules/courses commissioned by the SHA meet the competence requirements of the PH Skills & Career Framework as described in the PH Course Guide

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. Discussions are underway with IT to develop a website to hold this data and make it more user-friendly.
2. **PH Practitioner Training Scheme**
   - A second cohort of 5 practitioner trainees have been recruited for this second cohort, starting in October. The first cohort of trainees have completed their placements with partner organisations during the summer recess from university.
   - 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 at end October 2008 on the first year of the scheme.
   - An abstract is to be 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**
   - Invitations to nominate participants on this programme have been sent out by Prof. John Newton from the Government Office.
   - The programme is provided by the Improvement Foundation [www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP](http://www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP)
   - The launch date is 25th November for the 60 senior people expected to be 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.

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.
   - New project work is 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 is to be 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.

**Teaching Public Health Networks**
A meeting was held in October to discuss a formal agreement which is now needed on how the South East Teaching PH Network will work more closely with NESC in future. It was agreed this should be achieved through the participation in and development of the Strategic Advisory Board for PH Training, Education and Development.

**DH National Public Health Advisory Group**
- The recent meeting of this group was postponed due to a change in chairing arrangements.
- A workshop was held to explore how the data collected through the Public Health Collection this year may be collected and retained through the Electronic Staff Record in future, eliminating the need for this separate exercise each year.
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.
- Nationally, it is likely there will be funding from the DH 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.
- 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 is to be 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.

For further information and/or to be added to our database, please contact:

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