Status Report for PH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES – February 2009

The second meeting of the South Central PH Education, Training and Development Strategic Advisory Board took 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. All PCTs now have a representative.
   • 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
   • A poster will be presented on the work of the PHD Leads group at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009.

   Public Health Practitioners and Registration
   • Standards to regulate PH practitioners are now out for consultation until the end of February 2009. http://www.publichealthregister.org.uk/node/81
   • A workshop is to be held on 25th February in London for the South of England which is sponsored by NESC. www.publichealthregister.org.uk
   • Five learning sets for PH practitioners at levels 5-7 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
   • Approx 40 PH Practitioners are developing portfolios in preparation for registration as practitioners on the UK PH Register when available in 2009. The Learning Needs Assessment tool based on the PH Skills and Career Framework has been used to assess training needs and provide appropriate workshops.

   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.
   • Group sessions and one-to-one support is provided throughout the year.
   • It is anticipated that in future applications for registration will be able to be made in sections, “banking” elements of the portfolio in up to five submissions over a period of time.
   • South Central is represented on the national group which supports this work.

   Public Health Education Bursary Scheme
   • The NESC integrated Education Bursary Scheme is now open for applications. Bursaries of up to £5000 are available to people working in public health roles from the health and social care sector. http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/about_nesc/research_and_innovation/education_bursary_scheme.aspx
The Public Health Course Guide

- This is now available as a document, and it relates 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 tool is to guide individuals, managers and course leaders to the public health competence which should make up academic study at these levels. The development of the guide as a searchable website has now been commissioned by NESC IT. The intention is to make it more user-friendly and have the course providers keep it up to date. It is hoped the website will be used by other regions over time.

2. PH Practitioner Training Scheme

- A second cohort of five practitioner trainees started the scheme in October and have completed the first module. The first cohort of 5 trainees completed their placements with partner organisations during the summer recess from university and are now well 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.
- The Advisory Group meet regularly to oversee the scheme; recruitment of a third cohort is anticipated within the next few months.
- An annual report will be available by the end of the year on the first year of the scheme.
- A poster will be presented on the work of the PH Practitioner Training Scheme 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 first residential event was held successfully in the New Forest “hosted” by Hampshire PCT in January.
- Details concerning the programme delivered by the Improvement Foundation, collaborating with the IDeA, can be found at [www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP](http://www.improvementfoundation.org/SCLIHWBP)
- 60 senior people have been given places on the programme which provides a series of five events and two workshops on quality improvement 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 development events implement the recommendations have been commissioned.
- A similar project with Portsmouth City Council has now been completed and the report is being finalised. Discussions are underway with colleagues at Buckinghamshire County Council and the PCT to explore a project for organisational development. Southampton City Council and Eastleigh Borough Council have also expressed interest in similar work.
- 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 and wellbeing.
- A poster will be presented on the work of the Fareham, Gosport and Havant project 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)

- The South Central Public Health Training, Education and Development Strategy is being revised following discussion at the South Central Strategic Advisory Board for PH Training Education and Development and in the light of the SHA’s workforce development strategy, Fit for the Future as well as other related developments.

SE Teaching Public Health Networks (TPHN)

The work of the South East TPHN, led by the University of Southampton, focuses on developing the children’s workforce in schools, working in partnership through a stakeholder group which includes the Teacher Development Agency (TDA).
A meeting was held recently between NESC PHD and the lead for Education Commissioning with the SE TPHN co-ordinator to review how we might ensure that PH competence is included in NHS pre-registration courses.

**DH National Public Health Advisory Group**
- Judy Jones has been appointed as the new chair of this national group. She recently made a presentation to the Regional Directors of Public Health about her vision for the structure and work of this group.
- It is unclear as yet how this group will relate to regional PH workforce development leads.

**Health Trainers**
- 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](http://www.riph.org.uk). The Health Trainers themselves are qualified to Level 3 with the City & Guilds Health Trainer Certificate [www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com).
- South Central has been successful in gaining additional funding 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 will be provided at the UK Public Health Association Annual Forum to be held in Brighton in March 2009. This session will be chaired by the Director of Public Health lead for our SC HT Hub.

**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. Skilled for Health projects will receive further support through the extended funding proposed in the Health Inequalities Next Steps report. There is to be a meeting on 5th March for managers in the South East to discuss how the work can be embedded and mainstreamed into the future.
[http://www.continyou.org.uk/what_we_do/healthy_active_learning_communities/skilled_health](http://www.continyou.org.uk/what_we_do/healthy_active_learning_communities/skilled_health)

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