PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

STATUS REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2010

This paper briefly describes the current training, education and development work being commissioned and provided for public health by Innovation & Development within the SHA’s Workforce & Education directorate. This is in close collaboration with Wessex Deanery and the Oxford Deanery School of Public Health. Evaluation reports and other information on the work to date are available on the Public Health Development pages on the website http://www.workforce.southcentral.nhs.uk/about_us/public_health_development.aspx

Nationally, the speciality training programmes for public health will be recruiting in the usual way through the deaneries across the country from December. Other training and development programmes, such as the Talent Management Service and CPD for PH consultants, are available through other management arrangements with Public Health at the SHA.

In the absence of both the DH review of PH regulation and national guidance regarding workforce development at the level below specialist/consultant, we are continuing to use the UK PH Register PH practitioner standards and PH Skills & Career Framework as our guide to development for the public health workforce. When information is available about the future direction for this workforce group, our programmes are sufficiently flexible to be adapted to new models.

PH Practitioner Training & Development Programme
This new programme is now out for application by PH practitioners from all sectors who wish to develop their competence against the UK PH Register PH practitioner standards. PH practitioners working at NHS Agenda for Change Bands 5 (and/or equivalent level) and above are encouraged to apply to the programme before 29 October 2010.
The programme includes:
• Training needs analysis
• Training and education to fill gaps
• Portfolio development
• Learning groups and mentoring
• Assessment process

Defined Specialist Portfolio Development Programme
This programme supports senior public health practitioners wishing to submit retrospective portfolios demonstrating competence to the UK PH Register.

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PH Practitioner Academic Bursary Programme
This year this programme has already allocated funding to a number of practitioners wishing to study for modules or courses, typically at masters level, in public health and health improvement/promotion.

Public Health Development Leads are working with us in each of the PCT Public Health Teams in South Central. They provide an advisory and support roles to members of the PH practitioner and wider workforce wishing to develop their competence in public health.

Local Authority Development Programme
The summary report describing the work undertaken to date with Fareham, Gosport & Havant, Portsmouth, Eastleigh, Southampton and Milton Keynes councils is now available on the website. www.

SHA Public Health Transition Plan
In addition to supporting the public health workforce through the transition, the project within this plan on Training & Education describes work to be undertaken with local authorities, GP commissioning consortia, health protection and the health intelligence and health improvement functions.

SLA’s have recently been finalised with Supporting Public Health to contribute to this work in the north of the patch and with the University of Southampton PH academic department for the south. The Public Health Development Leads in each area will provide support.

The Talent Management Scheme and many other stakeholders are also involved in this planned programme of transition following the white paper in July and dependent on the public health white paper anticipated in December.

SHA Workforce & Education
Work is underway which aims to:

- mainstream PH competence within all courses commissioned by the SHA
- contribute to the development of PH roles and competence for levels 1-4 of the workforce

A national paper is anticipated on the future of workforce and education at approximately the same time as the PH white paper in December.

During the next three to six months discussions will take place and decisions be made to establish the best models for commissioning and delivery of public health training, education and development at all levels for the future.

Joanna Chapman-Andrews
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