First UK meeting of Practitioner Assessment Schemes

Public Health Wales recently hosted a one day seminar about the support and assessment schemes in place for public health practitioners. The event was attended by professionals from all over the UK and gave the opportunity to share and discuss the developments, creating lots of enthusiastic discussion.

Successful applicants off the schemes (currently running in the West Midlands, South Central, Wales and Kent and Medway) will be able to make a direct application to the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) once the practitioner arm of the register opens in April 2011. We are looking forward to working in close partnership with public health bodies, locally and nationally, to further develop the scheme.

Wales are hoping to have the first practitioner through their scheme and on UKPHR when it opens in April. Claire Barley from Public Health Wales feels strongly that the assessment scheme is more then just ticking boxes,

“The assessment process helps to identify individuals’ strengths and weaknesses allowing for personal and professional development. There is always going to be uncertainty and ambiguity but the scheme enables us to plan and develop our workforce leading to better health outcomes and retention of staff.”

Public health practitioners are key members of the public health workforce and can have a great influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations. However most practitioners remain unregulated. Over the past year the UKPHR has been working collaboratively with a number of health communities across the UK, to develop and support local assessment schemes involving around 200 practitioners.

For more information on what the schemes involve or setting up a scheme in your area please contact lillian.somervaille@aubretiacottage.org.uk or griffhobbs@aol.com