

Public Health Workforce

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Who is included within the Public Health Workforce?

In recent years the public health workforce has been identified within three groupings:

Wider workforce: people who have a role in health improvement, protecting health and reducing inequalities but who would not necessarily regard themselves as part of the public health/health and wellbeing workforce, for instance, teachers, youth workers, leisure services personnel.

Practitioners: people who spend a major part or all of their time in public health practice. They are likely to work in multi-professional teams and include people that work with groups and communities as well as with individuals, for instance, Smoking Cessation Advisors. Some of this group may be involved in project delivery. At a more senior level, they will be providing management and leadership across different organisations.

Public health specialists: this group includes consultants and specialists who work at a strategic level and very senior level. They will have technical skills, for instance in epidemiology, statistics or immunology and be prepared to support communities with health protection issue.

Public Health Workforce News

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Findings from the recent ChaMPs stakeholder insight report 2012, (which sought to ascertain the views and perceptions of different stakeholder groups across the NHS and local government, (regarding the current level of understanding of Public Health) found that there were several issues with regards to Public Health communication. As a result of these findings it was agreed that a collaborative approach was needed to develop some effective engagement and communication skills within public health teams locally. As a consequence, the workforce programme within ChaMPs was tasked with commissioning appropriate skills development training. This report provides evaluation of the training workshops.

[North West School of Public Health](#) - led by Dr Daniel Seddon

"The School is part of the Mersey Deanery, and serves the whole of the North West of England. We train public health experts and leaders to serve the people of the North West. Our graduates hold jobs in NHS and academic organisations, in the Health Protection Agency, and in a variety of other settings. These public health teams and jobs will change dramatically over the next two years, because of the implementation of the Coalition Government plans for the NHS and for Public Health in England". (Dr Daniel Seddon)

[The UK Public Health Register](#)

Over the past year UKPHR has been working with a number of health communities across the UK, to develop and support local assessment schemes so that public health practitioners are able to register with the practitioner arm of the UK Public Health register (UKPHR) which opened in April 2011. [Click here](#) to view an initial paper outlining the UKPHR early recommendations securing a fit for purpose public health workforce for the new systems in public health. This is intended as an early discussion paper and will be followed by further planning in 2012.

Response to the DH Public Health Workforce consultation:

The North West public health community provided a clear and comprehensive response to the proposed [public health workforce strategy](#)—part of the commitment from the Healthy Lives, Healthy People white paper.

In order to secure a response that was truly reflective of views at all levels and across organisations, ChaMPs secured regional funds in order to run a series of consultation workshops across the North West and led on a task and finish group made of “public health workforce expertise” from local authorities, academia and the public health networks across the region. A draft “strawman” response was then used as the basis to start the discussions at the workshop events which were all attended by Alison Ross who led on the development of the strategy at DH.

A response from each of the four network areas has been submitted along with the jointly produced North West response. Themes from the events included the need to secure high quality career pathways and training programmes at all levels of public health and the need to support career development for the public health practitioner workforce particularly. The response also highlighted the imperative to ensure that we work with the new education and workforce systems – (HEE, PHE, LETB’s) in order to secure appropriate levels of investment in public health education and training for the future.

The response was approved at the regional DsPH and submitted to the department of health.

For a full copy of the North West response [click here](#)

For a full copy of the C&M response [click here.](#)