

THE NET

News, views & updates for the Wider Stakeholder Group

The East Midlands Teaching Public Health Network, part of a national project funded by the Department of Health, is being hosted in this region by NHS East Midlands.

Launch of the East Midlands Teaching Public Health Network website

Welcome to the first newsletter of the East Midlands Teaching Public Health Network (EMTPHN), the network that brings together public health teaching and public health practice across the East Midlands.

The EMTPHN has now a web site which is hosted by the EMPHASIS website (www.emphasisnetwork.org.uk). The website is intended to be a key tool for the network and stakeholders, in which to post information, register for events and keep up to date with public health capacity and capability developments.

If you would like further details of the Network, either visit our website at www.emphasisnetwork.org.uk/tphn.htm or contact the EMTPHN support team, details which are given at the end of this newsletter.

What is the purpose of our East Midlands Teaching Public Health network (EMTPHN)?

Our network is one of 9 in England hosted by East Midlands NHS, currently championed by Dr Jas Bilkhu (East Midlands Postgraduate Dean) and coordinated by Dr Isabel Perez (consultant in Public Health).

The network aims to support the teaching and learning of health and wellbeing, to promote communication, partnership and to increase public health capacity and capability across our region. It also aims to build on work to date and encourage involvement and engagement from partner organisations that have a role to play in improving the health of the population, including NHS, local authorities, voluntary and independent sector, higher and further education institutions.

The network brings together academic and service public health to:

- Increase public health teaching capacity
- Promote a learner-centred approach to the development of public health teaching
- Promote flexible learning tailored to the needs of the public health workforce at all levels and to
- Raise awareness more widely on the impact of health on economic well-being, inequalities and specific outcomes underpinning the White paper 'Choosing Health'

The objectives of the network were initially identified in November 2006 when the EMTPHN Steering Group was first established. Details of these can be found in our web site.



east midlands teaching public health network

Why Teaching Public Health Networks have been established?

Teaching Public Health Networks (TPHN) have been established to build capacity and capability among the public health workforce.

The delivery of Choosing Health requires education of the whole workforce (NHS, local government, voluntary and private sectors) about the determinants of health on a scale which has never been attempted before. Everyone needs to understand the opportunities they all have as individuals to contribute to population health improvement for themselves, their families, their local communities and within their sphere of influence at work. In addition, everyone needs to understand that public health is not an add-on, but a fundamental way of working within any role.

The creation of TPHNs is a way to facilitate the above, bringing together public health teaching and public health practice.

The launch of a TPHN in each English region was a key milestone in terms of workforce development for health improvement. A total of £2m initially was agreed by DH to support the networks during 2006/7 and 2007/8 across England. A further £1m has now agreed to support the networks further during 2008/9.

The scope for the networks is to increase public health educator capacity (academic and service) in the breadth as well as depth of the workforce exposed to public health skills/awareness – that is not just those groups traditionally exposed to public health education (specialists and practitioners) but the wider workforce. This latter group includes those at the operational level who can influence through their work the public's health such as care assistants as well as those at the strategic level such as chief executives, directors of finance and commissioning. The groups extend beyond the health service and will particularly include, local authority staff and the third sector.

The TPHNs programme links closely to other DH commissioned and funded workforce initiatives. Among these are:

- the development by Skills for Health of a Public Health Career Framework which is competency based across all 9 career levels
- the UK Voluntary Register project to map practitioner regulation with a view to establishing a common regulatory framework.
- work on health trainer competences, other public health discipline-specific workforce developments, Foundation Degrees and the NHS Induction Programme.

Who is the network for?

The network is for:

- those who have a role to play in teaching or delivering training in a public health related area.
- those who have a role to play in influencing the health and wellbeing of the population, including providers and commissioners of health and social care
- the broad range of specialists, practitioners and wider workforce interested in developing public health skills

These colleagues may work in the NHS, Local Authorities, Voluntary sector, Higher and Further Education settings, and may have diverse roles (e.g. FE college tutors, commissioners, clinicians, environmental officers, health improvement practitioner, house officers, etc)

EVENTS/CONFERENCES

Regional events

Health Trainer event – 26th February – venue to be confirmed

The annual East Midlands Public Health Conference will take place on Wednesday, May 21st at the Riverside Centre, Derby. Agenda to be confirmed.

Diary date for our first East Midlands Teaching Public Health Network Stakeholder Event:
Wednesday 24th June 2008

A full day programme to focus on developing the capacity and capability of the public health work force across East Midlands. Venue and details to follow shortly

National Conferences

1st and 2nd April 2008. UKPHA Annual Public Health Conference, Liverpool

Details are available at:
<http://www.ukpha.org.uk>

3 - 5 June 2008. Faculty of Public Health Annual Conference.- Challenging Problems Sharing Solutions, Cardiff.

Details are available at:
<http://www.publichealthconferences.org.uk/>

Support Team

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