

London Teaching Public Health Network

Newsletter No.1 Spring 2007

Introduction

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the London Teaching Public Health Network.

Nine regional TPHNs were set up by the Department of Health last autumn.

The TPHNs are intended to support developments in public health teaching, particularly bringing together academic and service public health, academic departments that may not have worked together previously, and local authority and 3rd sector players.

The London TPHN is hosted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. LTPHN has chosen to focus initially on a number of issues especially pertinent to London, most notably perhaps

- 2012 and its public health implications, and
- engagement of the 3rd Sector with public health

Our aim is to facilitate the acquisition of public health skills among a wide variety of people in jobs that may or may not be recognised for their contribution to improving public health. Our partners are diverse: they come from universities and colleges of further education, local government, the NHS, Health Protection Agency and voluntary sector. All have the potential, through their activities or products, to improve population health or reduce health inequalities among Londoners. LTPHN hopes to act as a

catalyst to ensure that as much of that potential is realised.

Mapping existing Public Health Teaching:

To date, we have begun to map educational courses for adults run in London that have public health content. Many of these courses are not “badged” as ‘public health’, which is not surprising, as people in different sectors use very different language to describe interventions and services designed to promote or protect people’s health. By interpreting and connecting education providers, we intend to support enhancement of teaching, ultimately to improve the health of Londoners.

The mapping exercise will help to identify gaps in existing provision as well as possible gluts in provision at all levels from further education to specialist postgraduate qualification.

Forthcoming Events:

A. The Teaching Public Health Networks are leading an interactive Session at the Faculty of Public Health annual conference in Eastbourne on 28 June 2007. All welcome. For further details, see www.fph.org.uk

B. Sharing Good Practice Event: A LTPHN event is planned for Autumn 2007, to share good practice in public health teaching in London. Further details will be available shortly. If you have an example of excellence to share, please let LTPHN know as soon as possible!
Working Groups:

The following working groups are being set up to address development of public health skills in specific sectors:

1. Local government
2. Undergraduate education
3. 3rd Sector/Voluntary & Community sector

If you are interested in joining a working group, please contact LTPHN (see below) for further information.

Website:

www.ltpnh.org.uk is currently in development. It is hosted by the London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine. Future issues of the Newsletter, details of forthcoming events, etc will be available on the website. Partners will be encouraged to post information on the website about local events or initiative of interest to LTPHN members. It is hoped to have a 'members only' area soon, where people can exchange ideas and pose public health teaching challenges to others in the relative privacy of LTPHN space.

Join LTPHN!

If you have responsibility for developing competencies for delivering any part of the public health agenda in your London-based organisation, please join us. Your own professional background is not relevant to us. Neither is the sector – public, private, voluntary – in which you sit. But if your organisation has any responsibility for improving or protecting the health of Londoners through the work of its staff or through its educational activities, you may want to join us.

Contact LTPHN:

If you would like further information about LTPHN or wish to join our mailing list, please contact the Network Coordinator, Dr Fiona Sim, at Health Services Research Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7RT, or Fiona.Sim@lshtm.ac.uk

If you are outside London and would like to know more about your regional TPHN, please contact me to be put in touch with the appropriate Network lead.