



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

Overview

Since our Stakeholder event last December, we have been focused on maintaining the interest of people working in the diverse organizations that comprise this Network, whilst at the same time undertaking activities that will ensure our future sustainability. Having been set up with a Department of Health grant at the end of 2006 as one of nine such Networks, we hope we demonstrate our usefulness to a range of stakeholders across London and beyond.

Third Sector

As national lead amongst the nine Teaching Public Health Networks in England for engagement of the Third Sector [ie Community and Voluntary sector organizations], that area has continued to be the focus of much energy and innovation.

The role of the Third Sector in health and social care provision is very extensive and so it is obvious that people who work in that sector have a potentially powerful role to play in improving public health and tackling health inequalities. There are emerging opportunities for the sector to participate more fully through the new public service commissioning arrangements and the 2012 London Olympics agenda.

The sector varies in resources and organisational infrastructure to support sector specific skills and career development, including health and well-being. We are, therefore, working with the Sector to understand better their needs in terms of building capacity for supporting delivery of public health goals, and to put in place initiatives that will enable those needs to be met.

Following discussions with representatives from our colleagues in the Third Sector, we are currently carrying out a consultation on the support for, and acceptance of, a Skills Passport in health and well-being as we feel that this might

best meet their needs for both individual and organisational workforce development (for health protection and improvement). This work is being supported by the London and national offices of Skills for Health, the UK Sector Skills Council for Health.

A meeting will be held on 23 June 2008 to discuss this further [see more information under Events below]. For information about this meeting or to register, please contact lorraine.williams@lshtm.ac.uk, or register directly via our website www.ltphn.org.uk by 16 June.

Undergraduate Courses

The Undergraduate Project has had a setback with the departure recently of Kathryn Oliver. The project has elicited considerable interest in inter-institutional collaboration and we are keen to harness this interest, which could be of real value in building public health capacity across the city. We are at present planning another London-wide Stakeholder event for December 2008, to build on existing experience and explore further the potential for interprofessional learning in health in London.

In the meantime, we are working with technical experts to establish a searchable database of courses to enable individuals and organizations to access information about appropriate learning opportunities. This links with the Third Sector project, which is developing an on-line self-assessment tool for people to ascertain their level of public health competence in relation to the National Public Health Skills & Careers Framework [published April 2008, see www.phru.nhs.uk and www.skillsforhealth.org.uk].

Childhood Obesity

LTPHN has been commissioned by DH to develop and deliver training to tackle childhood obesity in London during 2008/9. This project has begun by determining the extent of existing services so that whatever we develop will fit within overall London and local services. We have been asked to focus our attention on children of primary school age, particularly those who are being measured through the nationwide measuring programme in Reception classes. Some of London's boroughs have the highest prevalence of childhood overweight and obesity

in the country and we are hopeful of making a contribution both to service provision and to the evidence base in this area of intervention. Any reader of this Newsletter who is not already in contact with this work and who wishes to be involved, is invited to contact fiona.sim@lshtm.ac.uk.

E-learning

The Department of Health has recently commissioned the development of e-learning materials to support capacity building in public health intelligence as part of its Public Health Information & Intelligence Strategy. LTPHN is providing public health advice to that work, which is seeking to develop and pilot learning materials in selected areas of public health at 'practitioner' and 'specialist' levels of the national PH Skills & Career Framework.

NICE

Fiona Sim was invited to be a member of the new NICE Education Advisory Group. Its first major output will be e-learning materials for teaching and learning Evidence-based medicine for undergraduate medical students: it has been pointed out and accepted that similar initiatives are as relevant to students of other health-related disciplines.

Events:

Recent:

3 June 2008: LTPHN with Skills for Health – *Workshop for engaging Third Sector Employers*

4 June 2008: Breakfast Session, Presentation and Poster at Faculty of Public Health Conference, Cardiff

6 June 2008: LTPHN with MyAction – Workshop for PCT Directors of Public Health and Commissioners: *A new integrated multidisciplinary preventive vascular community based programme for hospital and general practice*

Future:

23 June 2008: LTPHN with Skills for Health: *Developing a Skills Passport in Health & Wellbeing* -This event will explain the purpose

and relevance of a Skills Passport and include experience of Skills Passports from other occupational sectors. We shall be consulting with key stakeholders to assess the level of support for the model of a skills passport in health and well-being as a potential tool for workforce planning and career development for Third Sector organisations in London. This meeting will be of interest to: those working in and with third sector organisations improving and protecting health and well-being; employers and managers of third sector organisations in London with a health and well-being/care remit; education and training organisations in London teaching courses in public health/health promotion; professional and support organisations for the third sector; commissioners of public health services from PCTs and LAs.

For further information:

lorraine.williams@lshtm.ac.uk or www.ltphn.org.uk .

December 2008: LTPHN Stakeholder Event on Interprofessional Learning – venue: City University; date to be confirmed. Further information: fiona.sim@lshtm.ac.uk

Other events are planned – please keep an eye on our website www.ltphn.org.uk for further information.