

# THE NET

News, views & updates for the Wider Stakeholder Group

## Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Issue of the London Teaching Public Health Network

### Welcome to 2010's Summer Newsletter

In May, we organized a very successful Public Health Network event for the London Regional Public Health Group, and in July, completed a review of Weight Management Programmes commissioned by London PCTs. Further details, including news and updates on our work, are included below.

DH has recently told the TPHNs that they are to close by this Autumn, with Regional Directors of Public Health becoming wholly responsible for the Public Health Development function in each region. A national transition project is under way and we shall be discussing future plans with Simon Tanner and our stakeholders in the coming months.

Meanwhile, please ensure that you make use of our own website and also the composite website carrying many of the outputs of all nine TPHNs, at [www.atphn.org.uk](http://www.atphn.org.uk).

### Farewell to:

*Lorraine Williams, who led on our Third Sector Engagement project. Her contribution in securing ongoing third sector interest in London's public health improvement and leading development of a proposal for a Skills Passport for public health were very valuable. We wish her well in her new job*

### Public Health Event: 'Getting serious about Health Inequalities'



Participants at the public health event at Friends House, London  
Over 120 public health specialists, practitioners and academics attended a London wide public health event entitled 'Getting serious about Health Inequalities' at Friends House, London on May 21st 2010. The half day event, organized by LTPHN for the London Regional Public Health Group and NHS London, provided an opportunity for participants to hear from the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy Team and the Marmot Review Team amongst others. Simon Tanner, London Regional Director for Public Health, chaired the opening plenary session.



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## DIARY DATES

The Royal Society of Medicine meeting 'Health, wealth and ways of life'

London, UK 23-24 Sept 2010

European Health Forum 'Creating a better future for health in Europe'

Gastein, Austria 6-9 Oct 2010

See our website [www.ltpnh.org.uk](http://www.ltpnh.org.uk) for these and other upcoming events

Helen Davies of the Greater London Authority, spoke about the delivery of the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy, Penny Emerit of Commissioning Support for London, outlined how Polysystems support tackling health inequalities, Jo Skinner of London Metropolitan University addressed getting Health Innovation and Education clusters [HIECs] to deliver change and Ian Banks, President of the Men's Health Forum, described compelling evidence about the public health challenge of men's health. The event included three workshops, where it was possible to discuss some of these public health issues in more depth, share good practice and progress and identify key outcomes or take home messages: topics were how CSL contributes to tackling health inequalities, practicalities of implementing the Marmot Review and the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy and the potential for HIECs and the wider academic service to tackle inequalities.

Lindsay Davies, NHS London, presented the closing plenary, capturing key points from the workshops. Simon Tanner closed the event. Downloadable presentations are available on our website.

For further information on this event please see our website.

## Public health module for pre-qualification health professionals

LTPHN was commissioned as part of the DH *Informing Healthier Choices* initiative to develop and test a new public health module, suitable for undergraduate or other pre-qualification health courses. The developed module consisting of four discrete, but interconnected units on public health aspects of **child health, coronary heart disease, stroke** and **diabetes**, were piloted with 87 students from a range of health disciplines in November and December 2009. Pilot sites included University College London, Kings College London, City University London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The units are now complete and consist of workbooks, PowerPoint slides with lecture notes, and can be downloaded from the [HealthKnowledge Website](http://HealthKnowledge.Website). HealthKnowledge is an online resource for public health practitioners, healthcare workers and all those wishing to increase their public health skills. We have also included a link to the resources on our website [www.ltpnh.org.uk](http://www.ltpnh.org.uk)

## Reminder about PHORCaST

LTPHN has been supporting the work of PHORCaST for public health career development. PHORCaST stands for **Public Health Online Resource for Careers and Skills Training**, a UK wide initiative to develop a one stop information point for public health individual and workforce development. For further information on this project see details on the PHORCaST website:

<http://www.phorcast.org.uk>.

## Weight Management Programmes in London

LTPHN has now completed a brief study of PCT commissioned weight management programmes in London, funded by the London Regional Public Health Group (DH) the study recommended:

- A needs based approach to commissioning all public health programmes
- An evidence-based approach to commissioning, using best available evidence of effectiveness of interventions
- Commitment to outcome as well as process evaluation of commissioned services, in order to strengthen the evidence base
- Development of a locally agreed, preferably multi-agency, comprehensive care pathway for every public health priority area, prior to embarking on commissioning a particular service
- Deployment of staff who are appropriately trained/experienced in commissioning and procurement, just as for any other interventions – that is, to ensure successful, safe commissioning this relatively small proportion of PCT investment should not be taken less seriously in terms of commissioning and procurement than bigger contracts
- Engagement with providers fairly and transparently.

For further details please contact Fiona Sim and see our website [www.ltpnh.org.uk](http://www.ltpnh.org.uk) for project updates.

### Contact us....

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