

THE NET

Welcome to the North East Teaching Public Health Network's (NETPHN) ninth newsletter
News, views & updates for those in public health education, learning & capacity building

NETWORKING IN ACTION

CMH brings light to the dark



Catch The Light, Southwick

TWO North East schools are becoming shining examples of hope and possibility in an area which in the past has seen its dreams dampened by deprivation and inequality.

Catch The Light is a joint project involving the Centre for Medical Humanities (CMH) in Durham's School of Medicine, and Southwick and Tilery Primary Schools in Sunderland and Stockton respectively. The project blends the arts and community health in a lantern-making health-awareness campaign which culminates in a visually striking night-time procession of scholars, their families, friends and school staff bearing brightly lit lanterns in commemoration and celebration of old and new community developments.

The first Southwick lantern procession took place in October 2003, and after attending last year's event, Tilery Primary in Stockton established their own to address the growing ethnic diversity of their Teesside community and raise health awareness. The first annual Tilery event took place on 12 March.

The CMH plans to integrate these events with its multi-sector workforce development initiative in primary care trusts.

For the full story visit <http://www.tphn.org.uk>

**Information supplied by Mike White,
Centre for Medical Humanities,
www.dur.ac.uk/cmh**

NETPHN strives to:

- increase the profile of public health across the region
- embed public health in curricula
- develop and enhance public-health teaching capacity and capability
- co-ordinate the sharing of existing good practice with regard to public-health teaching and learning

DEVELOPMENTS

E-learning for new PH staff

TAKING forward the notion of "every contact a health-improving contact", the South of Tyne and Wear (SoTW) Primary Care Organisation (PCO) has, with its partners, developed an induction-level e-learning package for new public-health staff.

Initially this is to involve new staff in PCTs, but with the view of later including the emerging public-health workforce.

The package is a short introduction to the concepts of, and staff members' own role in, health improvement.

Before developing their own, SoTW PCO found there were already some e-learning packages aimed at new staff, but nothing that fitted the remit of being short and that would fit easily into an induction programme.

NETPHN, as part of the working group set up to create the e-learning package, provided expertise in developing the curriculum content of the tool, and helped form a regional approach. NETPHN was also valuable in that the package could be used by university staff for students.

The initial phase of the e-learning package is complete, and a pilot has been undertaken to establish ease of use and relevance. The package will have a further trial in South of Tyne and Wear before a regional approach is developed, including funding and housing of the learning platform.

This e-learning project is a good example of how a small project in developing public-health curricula can have potential for real regional impact.

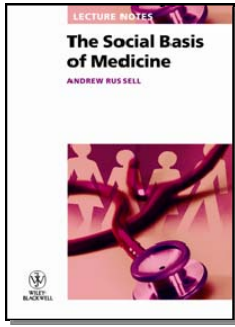
**For more information on the e-learning package contact
SoTW PCO Lead Pat Elms on Pat.elms@sotw.nhs.uk**

north east teaching public health network

www.TPHN.org.uk

BOOKS

New title for Lecture Notes series



NEW in his popular series, Dr Andrew Russell's *Lecture Notes: The Social Basis of Medicine* is aimed at giving students an understanding of how education, social class, family, economics and occupational circumstances, as well as cultural and ethnic influences, shape patients and health professionals alike, and how understanding aids effective clinical practice.

The book provides information and materials useful not only for undergraduate medical students, but also for recently graduated and practising doctors who wish to have a greater understanding of, and to develop their skills in, this area.

For more information on the book contact Dr Andrew Russell at Durham University at a.j.russell@durham.ac.uk

COURSES

MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice

THE Master of Science in Advanced Clinical Practice degree is a postgraduate programme of study which facilitates the development, synthesis and application of advanced clinical knowledge beyond that of graduate-level performance.

It represents the first true multidisciplinary pathway for all health-care professionals, as there are no elective modules, and students are facilitated in building capacity within and between their respective professional disciplines.

It differs from other traditional health professionals' Masters-level programmes in that it directly addresses the challenge of how theoretical knowledge can be translated into application to practice in the assessment, management and diagnosis of patient health and wellbeing. This has been achieved through the educational design of not only negotiated assessment techniques, but also new and innovative approaches to teaching, learning and social interaction.

In this sense the wider public-health agenda is firmly embedded throughout the curriculum, which hinges not just on knowledge and skills, but also on the affective drivers which influence processes of social interaction.

The programme has an integral advanced practice placement component so practitioners can gain protected learning time and valuable experience at the front line of patient care or clinical diagnostic management.

There are also two interim awards of Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas in Advanced Clinical Practice, should students choose to exit at different levels of the programme.

For information on funding visit www.sunderland.ac.uk, and for full details visit <http://www.tphn.org.uk>

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NEWS

Health Trainers speak out

HEALTH Trainers were able to voice their opinions and share their strengths at the Health Trainer Event held by NHS Public Health: County Durham and Darlington at Durham County Cricket Ground at the end of March.

After a welcome and presentation on the regional perspective of the Health Trainer Programme by Anna Lynch (Locality Director of Public Health for County Durham, and Durham & Regional Health Trainer Lead), Regional Social Marketing Lead Elaine Wilson spoke on Social Marketing and the Health Trainer Programme.

Regional Health Trainer Hub Leads Gwen Ellison and Chris Scorer followed with an update of what had occurred in the programme since last year's event. Workshops offered participants perspectives on, and the opportunity to discuss, issues such as mental wellbeing and the Health Trainer's role; substance abuse; assertiveness at work; career progression; community engagement; sexual health; physical activity and wellbeing; and stress management.

Debates became increasingly animated as the proceedings progressed, with the day's last sessions becoming a forum for discussion on issues including Health Trainer status and career development, which are to be taken forward through the Hub Leads.

Public Health Capacity Building and Health Trainer Lead for Durham and Darlington Chris Scorer said Health Trainers always welcomed the opportunity to get together.

The next event and date are still to be confirmed.

To become a NETPHN member go to www.tphn.org.uk and fill in the registration form.

Meet the NETPHN team

- ▶ **Prof Ann Crosland – Strategic Lead, University of Sunderland**
- ▶ **Annie Wallace – Project Director for Curriculum Development**
- ▶ **Andrea Jonker-Bryce – Project Officer/Research Assistant**
- ▶ **Jean Craister – Administrator**

To contact a team member, call or email Jean Craister on 0191 515 3066 or jean.craister@sunderland.ac.uk