

THE NET

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

The MA Inter-professional Practice Education, Faculty of Education, University of Sunderland

This Masters Programme starts in February 2009. Late applications are welcome. It is a 2-3 year part-time programme and includes block weeks of teaching. It is built around 3 principal cognate areas: **inter-professionalism, mentoring and assessment in the work place** and the **research process**. Concurrently there are **social policy** modules considering the changing relationship between professionals and service users. Also, a new core module in **leadership and management** will be available for the first intake, intended to complement other modules by being supported with a strong research foundation.

The Programme aims to develop professional knowledge and skills in education, research and leadership in a practice context, in the areas of social work, nursing, or community and youth work. The continuing education of social workers, nurses and other professionals in the workplace raises particular questions:

- What are the best models for teaching and learning?
- How can you mentor practitioners effectively?
- How do professionals work effectively in a multi-agency context?
- How do professionals learn leadership skills?
- How do professionals use reflection, research and critical analysis to improve their specialist practice?

This modular-based MA Programme incorporates significant amounts of workplace learning and is intended to contribute to raising standards of practice based on a principle that academic and professional learning are fully integrated. Drawing on in-depth knowledge of a specialist area of work and experience of conducting research and applying research to practice the Programme is intended to develop career pathways in professional practice, management, education and applied professional research. It aims towards professional 'mastery' of a specific area of work with a strong emphasis on various aspects of professional leadership including the capacity to evaluate and undertake research to support the ongoing improvement of services.

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The NETPHN key objectives are 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.

NETPHN News

NETPHN's 2nd annual conference Thursday 15 January 2009,

Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Key note speaker - Professor Stephen Singleton,
Regional Director of Public Health.

Main conference themes:

- Developing public health educator capability & capacity.
- Facilitating the embodiment of public health throughout higher & further education curricula.
- Promoting healthy universities & colleges.

To book your place go to the NETPHN website

www.tphn.org.uk

NETPHN Phase 2 Report is available on the NETPHN website from 15 January 2009. The Phase 2 mapping activity has had a number of benefits including continued engagement and collaboration across the 5 universities, a mechanism to continue to develop a public health workforce able to deliver on the regional strategy *Better Health Fairer Health* and a clearer picture of the public health competencies being delivered across HEIs with some gaps identified. There are however some significant challenges:

- An agreed & robust information system to allow the public health workforce (current & potential) to elect the study path to best suit service & career needs.
- Developing the capability & capacity of the public health education workforce & supporting this workforce.
- Engaging & developing curriculum with the wider public health workforce.
- Engaging & developing a network across FE provision.



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Skilled for Health

Skilled for Health projects are currently running in the North East as part of a national cross-government programme which combines skills development with health improvement, aimed at those with the greatest need. The projects are taking place in:

- Northumberland (a family learning approach).
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust (focusing on the health workforce).
- County Durham and Darlington (a range of community settings and a prison).

Skilled for Health aims to address both the low skills and health inequalities prevalent within disadvantaged groups and is proving a valuable means of engaging individuals that are traditionally hardest to reach in terms of both health and adult learning.

Benefits include:

- Contributing to national policy areas, for example, Choosing Health and the National Skills for Life Strategy.
- Supporting work to reduce health inequalities by promoting health among those communities that demonstrate the worst health outcomes.
- Supporting the development of local partnerships between the NHS and Literacy, Language and Numeracy (LLN) sectors.
- Helping to meet local targets, for example, through a better understanding of how to access services, achieving fewer missed appointments and by reaching disengaged learners.

A set of learning resources was developed in Phase 1 of the programme. Resource files 'Promoting health and wellbeing' and 'Accessing services and self care' are available free by phoning **0845 60 222 60** (ref: embedded/SFH1 and SFH2). More information, and a downloadable resource, 'Making the Case', is available from the embedded learning resources website http://rwp.qia.oxi.net/embeddedlearning/skilled_health/index.cfm

Skilled for Health Topics

Promoting health & wellbeing:

- Healthy food and drink.
- Physical activity and fitness.
- Substances.
- Mental wellbeing.
- Keeping safe.
- First Aid.

Accessing services and self care:

- The NHS and other support networks.
- GP and local primary care services.
- Finding out about health concerns.
- Self-care.

The programme is extremely flexible and courses are tailored to the particular needs and interests of the learners. Further topics, for example sexual health, are currently being developed for future use.

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In addition to Skilled for Health courses being delivered to parents in Children Centre settings, a model is being tested in Northumberland where learners come via the magistrates' court and attendance on the course is part of their programme. This is being run in partnership with Escape, a voluntary sector organisation working with people who misuse drugs and alcohol and their families and friends. Learners have engaged well in the sessions with lots of positive input and discussion.

In Durham Prison (a local prison with an average 12 week stay) Skilled for Health is being embedded into the curriculum for courses such as IT, photography and Key Skills. Over 40 learners have participated to date.

At Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust, Return to Learn courses have been used to re-engage staff in learning. Health and nutrition courses have made extensive use of Skilled for Health resources and a musculoskeletal course is being developed with support from Gateshead LEA.

The pilots are currently being evaluated as part of a national evaluation project and an interim report is expected before the end of the year, with a final report in Spring 2009.

- In the North East, over 200 learners have completed Skilled for Health courses so far
- When participants in the Northumberland Skilled for Health courses were surveyed, 91% of respondents agreed that after doing the course they knew more about the need to eat healthily and to drink alcohol safely and sensibly. 100% of respondents would recommend the course to a friend.

Skilled for Health in the North East has the potential to play an important part in the delivery of the regional *Better Health, Fairer Health* Strategy. It is relevant across the 10 themes of the strategy and can support the achievement of the ambitious aim whereby: *The North East will have the best and fairest health and well-being and will be recognised for its outstanding and sustainable quality of life.*

Meet the NETPHN team

Prof. Ann Crosland – University of Sunderland

Annie Wallace – Project Director for Curriculum Development

April Dickens – Project Officer

Jean Craister – Administrator

To contact a member of the team:

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



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