

THE NET

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

Local developments & initiatives

Developing Arts in Health

Since 2000, the Centre for Arts & Humanities in Health & Medicine (CAHHM) at Durham University has been supporting the development of research-guided regional networks which explore the application of creativity to health promotion that addresses health inequalities. From September 2008, for 16 months, in a new partnership between Gateshead PCT & CAHHM, a programme supported by the Workforce Development Innovations fund of the SHA will train health & community workers in the effective delivery & evaluation of community-based arts in health. They will engage directly with the public at all levels & some local community artists & staff in 'extended' schools. The programme will include an induction event, a seminar series covering agreed health topics that can be addressed through arts-based approaches, & mentoring sessions using reflective practice. The aim is to build skills & confidence through different professional collaborations that can implement arts-based solutions to health promotion challenges. When this programme ends, it is hoped to roll out the approach to other PCTs with ongoing support provided through a custom-designed CPD course in Durham's School of Medicine & Health. Evaluation will assess the sustainability of the programme after the initial funding ends. Enquiries to mike.white@durham.ac.uk

North Tees Public Health Directorate in partnership with Tees Active has commissioned a range of services to encourage children aged 5 to 16 years to become more active. All young people upon registration by parents/carers can obtain a free leisure saver card entitling them to a discount of up to 45% on activities that take place in Billingham Forum, Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby Pool, Stockton Sports Centre & Splash. Also a range of 'Sporting Start' activities will be on offer during school holidays.

Continued >>>

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.

>>> The Young Persons Active Health Scheme is a progressive nutrition & physical activity programme that offers 12 months free access to activity sessions. These programmes form part of a comprehensive public health package designed to increase physical activity among children & their families together with adult weight management support.

Sandra Brown - Obesity lead for children & adults North Tees PCT Public Health.

Values Exchange

Students studying programmes in community health, education, health & social care, social work & the MA in careers advice at the University of Sunderland are given an opportunity to work with the **Values Exchange**, the work of Professor David Seedhouse. It is an innovation in eLearning with wide applications in teaching & research at all levels. Any student with internet access can use the system to reflect, write & research. Opinions are collated automatically with 33 qualitative & quantitative reports per case. Any grouping of students can be compared with any other & the more cases you do the more reports you see. Each student has a portfolio of completed cases, providing an invaluable means of plotting changes in thinking over their university career. Different educational establishments can instantly & seamlessly link up to share cases & results using VX Grand Central.

Enquiries to barbara.griffin@sunderland.ac.uk



north east teaching public health network

This month's spotlight – Northumbria University

This is the second of five issues of the newsletter which will include a spotlight area giving the five universities in the region an opportunity to showcase public health developments within their institution.

The School of Health, Education & Community Studies

The School of Health, Education & Community Studies at Northumbria University provides a diversity of preparation for public health practice. From undergraduate to doctoral level the provision incorporates Nursing & Midwifery Council & Faculty directives. Public health and in particular the role of the practitioner in promoting health behaviour change & understanding the wider determinants of health is an essential component of our pre-registration professional programmes (for nursing & allied health). Public health is a significant component of many CiPD modules. The BSc (Hons) Specialist Practitioner in Public Health provides NMC recognised preparation. The Masters in Public Health Programme responds to UK & international public health education demands. The MPH has been designed in response to the UK Government's public health strategy & modernisation agenda & reflects the public health skills & career framework. It attracts applicants from many disciplines & backgrounds and forms part of a range of programmes in the School's Postgraduate Studies which facilitates the multi-disciplinary collaborative learning, vital to those working in public health. The current revalidation of the Professional Doctorate in Health & Social Care framework will also include a public health route. Alongside all of this specific public health subject provision, is a broad work-based portfolio.

The School is proud of the strength of partnerships with service, allowing timely & responsive education that meets work place demands. This complements the translational philosophy of the School which ensures that learning is contextually sensitive & often located in practice.

Public health education provision is underpinned by research conducted in the Community Health & Education Studies Research Centre which has service user involvement and practice and service development as its overarching aims. The Health Improvement Research Programme (HIRP) has a specific public health theme. The aim of the HIRP is to build capacity for health improvement through: developing the health improvement workforce, developing knowledge for health improvement practice, service innovation & education. As evidence of the School philosophy to nurture partnerships & practice development with current & alumni students, service commissioners & providers, academics & researchers the Public Health & Primary Care Research Network provides a forum for knowledge sharing & development (http://hces.unn.ac.uk/public_health/).

For further details contact
HS.PGF-enquiries@northumbria.ac.uk

NETPHN News

There have been some exciting developments at NETPHN in the last couple of months. Thanks to the work done over the last two years NETPHN is to now focus on delivering the objectives set out in the policy document 'Better Health, Fairer Health'. A new post has been created to help secure future funding & to move the curricula development element of NETPHN forward.

Whilst we are excited by our new focus sadly there have also been some departures. So we welcome Annie Wallace to our team & say a warm farewell & thanks to Hilary Snowdon & Ceri Mather for all their hard work & expertise over the last couple of years.

To become a NETPHN member go to www.tphn.org.uk and fill in the registration form. Some people have experienced problems accessing the website due to IT systems 'blocking' access. If you have a problem accessing our website, contact your IT department in the first instance to remove the block.

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

- phone Jean Craister on **0191 5153066** or
- email jean.craister@sunderland.ac.uk



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www.TPHN.org.uk