



**Public Health  
Resource Unit**

*Supporting Public Health*



## Public Health Practitioners:

- **Inform and facilitate closer working relationships across professional groups**

### Liverpool Primary Care Trust:

Liverpool has a Public Health Training sub-group that includes representatives from both the PCT and the local authority. The Local Authority and PCT have prioritised children as a crucial element in their inequality reduction strategy. In order to ensure that Liverpool has a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency children's workforce that is enabled to deliver health improvement to children, the Sub-Group are using the PHSCF as a tool to identify public health competencies required for each different type of worker. From this analysis they will then train each part of the children's workforce to work with those key public health topics that are most relevant and appropriate to the role that they do. This should not only assure a holistic approach to children, but will also help different parts of the children's workforce to better understand that particular role they have to play in improving children's health.

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For further information about the PHSCF please visit:

[www.phru.nhs.uk](http://www.phru.nhs.uk)

[www.skillsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk)

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH SKILLS AND CAREER FRAMEWORK (PHSCF)**

### **HOW TO USE IT: PROPOSALS AND EXPERIENCES TO DATE**

#### **Purpose of the Public Health Skills and Career Framework**

- inform skills and career development of everyone who contributes to improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of the population
- facilitate the development of a skilled public health workforce that is fit for purpose to tackle health inequalities and deliver the national public health agenda
- provide a consistent and coherent vision across the whole of public health, value everyone's contribution and the interactions between those contributions

## Employers:

- **Analysing the skills required to deliver on health improvement, protection and inequality targets**

### Sandwell Primary Care Trust:

Sandwell PCT wishes to improve the Smoking Quit Rates in Pregnant Women in its catchment area. Using the PHSCF, the Public Health Workforce Development team mapped existing clinical and support workforce roles, using job descriptions, against the PHSCF areas and competency levels. 21 different roles needed to improve quit rates were identified, and the knowledge and skills within these roles analysed during a workshop. As a result of this mapping work they have now identified the knowledge and development needs required at different levels. This has led on to an understanding of the career development needs of existing staff, as well as an identification of potential new roles required amongst support staff.

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### West Midlands Strategic Health Authority/Teaching Public Health Network

The West Midlands SHA has approached their respective TPHN to run a region wide project on public health workforce development. Four public health activity pilots have been agreed, with specific PCTs and universities working together to use the PHSCF to help identify learning and development needs of staff working on specific public health issues (childhood obesity, infant mortality, sexual health and teenage pregnancy and prisoner health). Wolverhampton University is supporting these activities by working alongside all the pilot implementers to develop methods and techniques that will facilitate interprofessional learning, and to help disseminate lessons learned from implementation.

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## Educators:

- **Inform the content of core training for the wider workforce groups that have roles with potential strategic and operational influence on public health**

### South East Teaching Public Health Network:

The South East TPHN is focussing its efforts on reducing childhood obesity rates, working primarily with schools. As a first step they will look at the skills and competencies of school support staff, and map work that has been done by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) against the PHSCF. The purpose is to explore public health aspects of the current training and qualifications for school support staff, and to then identify what further public health training might be required to allow this crucial part of the school workforce to enhance the contribution their roles make to child health.

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- **Have a consistent template for informing the content and assessment of public health training and CPD for practitioners and specialists**

### London Teaching Public Health Network

The London TPHN is conducting an assessment of public health course content across a range of undergraduate health professional courses offered in London. The assessment will include benchmarking public health content against the PHSCF in order to identify both good practice and major gaps in provision. They also intend to explore the fit between teaching provision of the courses studied and felt need for public health training, as expressed through gathering views of public health students and of graduates in practice.

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