



Fit for the future: A review of the public health workforce

What is the project about?

In March 2015 the remit letter from Department of Health (DH) to Public Health England (PHE) set out the following: "The Government has also commissioned PHE to review and make recommendations on the current operation of the public health system in relation to the future capability, skills & experience of the public health workforce to operate across all the public health functions, including the duty of Local Authorities to provide public health advice to Clinical Commissioning Groups."

PHE's review of the future public health workforce will consider the medium term (about five years) issues and needs of the workforce. Specifically:

- looking ahead, what capacity and capability will we need in the public health system to protect and improve the public's health?
- what do we need to start doing/putting in place to get us ready for the future?

DH has also commissioned a longer-term look (up to 2035) from the Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI). The 'Public health workforce of the future' project is a collaboration between PHE and CfWI, which will address both questions at the same time because:

- broadly the same stakeholder group will need to be engaged
- there will be commonality between the medium and longer term issues

What is it for?

PHE's review of the public health workforce of the future project will inform DH's refresh of the national public health workforce strategy. The reports should also stimulate a wider debate about developing the public health workforce for the medium and longer term.

Who is it for?

DH, PHE and Health Education England (HEE) are the joint commissioners of 'Public health workforce of the future' but the project will provide a wide range of other stakeholders with information to support capacity planning and building for the public health workforce over the medium to long term.

When will it happen?

The project will have three workstreams: research, stakeholder engagement from November 2015 to January 2016, analysis, and the creation of two complementary reports by March 2016. PHE will write and publish a report on the medium term issues, which will identify key actions to be taken during the next five years; the CfWI will write and publish a report on the long-term view.

Who are we working with?

PHE and the CfWI will engage and work collaboratively with a number of key stakeholders and partners, including:

- DH
- Local Government Association
- local authorities
- NHS, NHS England, clinical commissioning groups
- Royal Society for Public Health
- Association of Directors of Public Health
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- UKPHR, Faculty of Public Health
- HEE, its local education and training boards (LETBs) and relevant advisory groups
- PHE staff, including workforce leads and regional teams
- professional bodies and academies
- voluntary and community sector

Engagement workshops

We are holding a number of events around the country between November to January, one in each LGA region/PHE centre, to enable local leaders to come together to discuss and shape national and local thinking on workforce issues.

Tuesday 24 November 2015	South West – Taunton
Wednesday 9 December 2015	West Midlands – Birmingham
Thursday 7 January 2016	East of England – Newmarket
Tuesday 12 January 2016	North West – Manchester
Wednesday 13 January 2016	South East – London
Thursday 21 January 2016	East Midlands – Loughborough
Tuesday 26 January 2016	North East – Durham
Thursday 28 January 2016	Yorkshire and the Humber – Leeds

What the event will:

- develop thinking on future scenarios that challenge the health of our population and the ways in which public health is currently delivered
- share local experience of the gaps in skills, knowledge and capability in the current and future public health workforce
- input to national strategic commentary on options for intervention/action to address skills gaps, and shape local action

Who should attend?

- senior leaders and influencers in the public health system
- local authority chief executives
- council leads and portfolio holders for health and wellbeing
- clinical commissioning group chairs or accountable officers
- health and wellbeing board chairs
- senior leaders from organisations representing service users and providers (including the third sector)
- directors of public health and adult and children's services
- PHE centre directors

For further information and to book your place, visit the [PHE events website](#).

Questions and comments: If you have any questions or comments on the project, email PHWorkforceReview@phe.gov.uk

Fit for the future survey: the link to the consultation survey is: surveys.phe.org.uk/PHWorkforceReview

The survey will close at midnight on 31 January 2016.

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