Expanding the role of the School of Public Health: Learning from the Academy of Public Health model in London & the South East

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Our mission

The Academy's central mission is to support a transformation in the capacity and capability of the public health system by working with organisations to develop a wider workforce that will enable everyone to lead healthier lives.

Background

- In response to the NHS Five Year Forward View, the Academy of Public Health was set up in 2016 and provides a costeffective example of HEE's leadership role.
- In collaboration with partners, the Academy identifies and agrees shared public health workforce priorities and jointly designs and delivers innovative approaches and interventions to develop new and emerging workforces in public health.

What we do

Champion workforce education, training and development for organisations and individuals improving and protecting the public's health and general wellbeing; from professionals in the sector, through to all those whose work impacts upon the public's health

Empower the broad public health workforce to have the greatest impact in supporting healthy lifestyles

Enable flexible workforce development and career progression that is relevant, timely, adaptive and fit for the future

Drive up new skills and standards by commissioning transformative programmes, embracing innovation and developing a virtual learning platform with a place for sharing ideas, tools and resources

Who we are

The Academy is in the remit of the Head of Public Health Education and Development for London and the South East.

A multi-agency steering group = determine priorities and take an overview of investment on behalf of the organisations and groups collaborating in the Academy partnership.

A challenger network of individuals = who challenge and support the Academy team is being established.

Holder and steward of funding is The London Borough of Harrow until 31 March 2018, then transferring to Kent County Council to lead this function.

Why we are different

- The Head of Public Health Education and Development has an explicit mandate to manage the public health specialty training via the School of Public Health and address the needs of the core and wider public health workforce via the Academy of Public Health
- Integrated business plan aligned to shared system priorities
- Effective delivery through **pooling and sharing resources** both people and finances offering economies of scale
- The ambition is to move beyond just agreeing an integrated work plan aligned with our strategic priorities for prevention and towards streamlining governance and programme management to make best use of our resources

Key achievements 2017/18

- Developed a series of learning events and suite of resources for the wider public health workforce to support place-based working for childhood obesity with subsequent role out to KSS
- Facilitated a pan-London MECC challenger event which helped to initiate a pan-London, multi-agency, MECC steering group led by Healthy London Partnership to agree model and a 'do once' for London approach
- Established a pan-London practitioner development scheme and developing a range of tools and resources transferable to all
- Developed a plan covering (a) how KSS leaders for prevention will work together and (b) explore what ongoing support might be needed to develop and embed further skills for system leadership

Challenges

- Limited capacity to support delivery within Academy, new models of delivery to be identified
- Working with a wide set of stakeholders shaping its investment strategy across two very different geographical areas
- Lack of recurrent funding means programmes are time limited and makes planning for the future difficult
- Navigating digital spend controls has restricted and delayed some of the digital ambitions

Continued focus 2018/19

- Bring together a range of stakeholders at a conference to share tools, resources and best practice to optimise the Social Value Act
- Develop a training offer to understand and apply outcome based accountability and commissioning in population health and prevention
- Provide intensive learning support to apply Theory of Change and Logic Modelling to help those planning and evaluating **MECC** programmes

Emerging projects 2018/19

- Map existing work, identify what works and work collectively to meet gaps to challenge mental health stigma, promote early intervention and self-management of mental wellbeing
- Work with emergency medicine and other HEE specialty training schools to embed public health skills and knowledge into practice
- Pilot a community of practice for the wider workforce to continue to increase impact and delivery of public health objectives in STPs and other local plans





