

# THE NET

News, views & updates for the Wider Stakeholder Group

## The South West Teaching Public Health Network, part of a national project funded by the Department of Health, aims to develop opportunities for public health teaching and learning across the region.

The South West Teaching Public Health Network (SWTPHN) aims to harness existing resources to ensure the availability of a comprehensive programme of public health education. These opportunities will be available to a wide range of individuals and agencies working at all levels, including those in local authorities, the voluntary sector and other parts of the community to improve the public health in the South West.

### Key Objectives of the Teaching Public Health Network:

- *To harness existing skills and resources to optimise Public Health education and training opportunities in the South West Region.*
- *To ensure access to a comprehensive programme of high quality public health education and training across the South West for those whose work contributes to the health of the public.*

### SWTPHN Steering Group

The SWTPHN is a partnership between teaching Primary Care Trusts (t-PCTs), academic institutions and key public health bodies at regional and strategic health authority level:

Bath Spa University  
 Bournemouth University  
 Bournemouth and Poole PCT  
 Bristol PCT  
 Health Protection Agency  
 HERDA-SW  
 NHS South West  
 Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry  
 Plymouth Teaching PCT  
 South West Regional Public Health Group  
 South West Public Health Observatory  
 University of Bath  
 University of Bristol  
 University of Exeter  
 University of Gloucestershire  
 University of Plymouth  
 University of the West of England, Bristol\*

\* Lead institution



**south west teaching public health network**

## SWTPHN Activities

### Built environment and public health

SWTPH funding has enabled a number of activities to be taken forward that aim to bring together public health and built environment professionals. Activities include facilitated learning sets between public health and built environment professionals, the development of learning materials and short courses, and integrating public health issues into conferences for planners. For more information, see the SWTPHN website.

### Healthy Universities

The SWTPHN, funded and supported by HERDA-SW, undertook an analysis of how Higher Education Institutions in the South West are engaging with healthy university related activity. This work is now being taken forward by the SWTPHN and HERDA-SW, with Vice Chancellors committed to developing the healthy university concept.

### Public health in Exercise, Sport and Health

Following a successful initial meeting between key people across the region who are responsible for delivering postgraduate Sport, Exercise and Health courses, work is now being taken forward to develop best practice guidelines of how to integrate public health into curricula of such courses. It is expected that the outcome of this work will be available nationally for other regions to use.

### Public Health Teaching Survey

52 people responded to the survey, with the vast majority keen to engage with teaching and training. As a result a teaching skills course was organised as part of the Public Health Residential School in Dartington. Further sessions are planned for those unable to attend. Work will also commence to develop links between academic institutions and those who are interested in teaching and training opportunities.

### Children's Centre Staff and Public Health

Work in Bournemouth, funded by the SWTPHN, is seeking to develop public health knowledge and skills among Children's Centre staff. This will include master classes on a variety of public health issues.

## Social marketing and public health

20 public health professionals across the north of the region will be taking part in a one day course on social marketing, funded by the SWTPHN. This will be followed by a master class session, involving the social marketing team at UWE and communications managers in local PCTs.

### Peninsula Network

The Peninsula Teaching Public Health Network, a sub-regional network of the SWTPHN, goes from strength to strength! There are now 380 people signed up to the e-group and attendance at CPD events is high. Their annual conference takes place in March 2009. For details of this and the other CPD events that are planned, visit their website.

<http://www.ptphn.org.uk/>

### Podcasts on the web...

There are a number of podcasts that can be accessed from the teaching network website:

<http://www.swtphn.org.uk>

Podcasts include those on health protection and climate change. Well worth a look. The website also provides details of public health learning opportunities across the south west, as well as links to information about public health careers.

## Contact...

The University of the West of England, Bristol, is the lead organisation for the SWTPHN. For further information on the activities of the Network you can contact:

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