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Factsheet Seven

Accredited Registers (AR) Programme

There are a wide range of health occupations and social care occupations in England where practitioners are not required by law to be on a statutory professional register, including multi-disciplinary public health specialists and public health practitioners. Many of these occupational groups have formed organisations – such as UKPHR – whose role is to develop and maintain standards in their area of practice. Frequently, these organisations hold registers of practitioners who meet certain standards of conduct and competence.

The Professional Standards Authority's Accredited Registers (AR) Programme exists to provide assurance that accredited registers are well run and achieve its high standards in the following areas: governance, setting standards for registrants, education and training, managing the register, complaints and information. Accredited registers require their registrants to meet standards of personal behaviour, technical competence and, where applicable, business practice.

UKPHR has achieved AVR status

UK Public Health Register's voluntary register of public health specialists and practitioners has been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care under the Accredited Registers (AR) Programme.

The AR Programme is managed by the Professional Standards Authority, an independent statutory body accountable to Parliament. The vetting and approval process is very rigorous and accreditation has to be renewed annually.

UKPHR has been protecting the public by registering public health specialists since 2003 and in 2011 began registering public health practitioners.

Specialists are leaders in public health practice, providing strategic decision-making and guidance as Directors of Public Health and Consultants, for example.

Practitioners carry out vital public health work helping individuals and communities to live more healthily, for example, helping people give up smoking, take care of their sexual health, exercise and eat healthily and protecting us all from disease outbreaks.

AR status represents objective assurance that UKPHR's standards are robust and that the organisation meets modern standards of registration. Government established the AR Programme in statute. It enables voluntary registers like UKPHR to be held to account for their operational standards not just by registrants but also by the public and the Professional Standards Authority.

Public assurance

The Accredited Registers (AR) Programme was set up to provide assurance on the standards of voluntary registers of unregulated health and care occupations.

Being accredited under the AR Programme offers enhanced protection to anyone looking for quality front-line public health service – people now have the option of seeking practitioners on a register that has been vetted and approved.

Specialists and practitioners on UKPHR's register will be able to display the Accredited Register (AR) quality mark, a sign that they belong to a register which meets the Professional Standards Authority's robust standards.

Accreditation offers public health registrants a means of demonstrating their personal commitment to meeting high standards by being on UKPHR's voluntary register.

Accreditation does not imply that the Professional Standards Authority has assessed the merits of individuals on the register. This remains UKPHR's responsibility.

Rigorous standards

Accreditation means that our register meets the Professional Standards Authority's high standards in governance, standard-setting, education and training, management, complaints and information.

It is a mark of quality. We shall display the AR quality mark including on our website.

All Accredited Registers can be accessed through the Professional Standards Authority's website –

<http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/voluntary-registers/the-accredited-registers-directory>

UK-wide accreditation

This scheme applies to the health sector in the UK and to social care in England.

For further information or if you wish to contact the UKPHR for any other reason
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