



Review of the UK Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework and the Public Health Skills Passport

Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (UK)

The Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF) is currently being reviewed. This work, commissioned by the Department of Health (DH), is being led by PHE. A sub-group of the UK People in Public Health Group oversees the governance of this workstream, involving representatives from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

During February and March 2015 the public health workforce across the UK was consulted on its views regarding the scope and focus of the review, through a series of workshops. The outcomes of this process are presented in a PHE report available on [GOV.UK](#)

In response to the voices heard during the consultation, a revised framework has been drafted, taking a function-led approach. This means that instead of the knowledge and skills being listed under curriculum headings for public health, a functional map has been developed showing public health functions and competences. These functions have been developed with the help of a range of subject and area experts from national public health and other organisations, and employers.

Consultation on the framework (December 2015/January 2016)

You can now take part in a workforce consultation on the revised framework through an [online survey \(click here\)](#). When you access the survey, you will be provided with a web link to a video presentation on YouTube, which will help you to answer the questions. It is really important that the public health workforce comments on the proposed descriptors for public health functions and contributes to the framework's development.

PHE is working closely with the sector skills council Skills for Health, which advises on functional mapping. Skills for Health will be working on the framework to align the functions with national occupational standards (NOS) from a range of sector skills sources.

The survey closes at midnight on Friday 15 January 2016.

Public Health Skills Passport (England)

The idea behind the skills passport is that individuals can plan their career development, mapping themselves against the PHSKF through a web-based platform. It will enable users to keep a record of their public health credentials – all in one place that can be accessed by individuals irrespective of their employer, or employment status.

The concept of a skills passport was tested in February and March 2015, at the same time as the earlier consultation on the PHSKF. This process generated useful information for the review of the framework and helped to highlight the benefits of different functions for a digital-based tool. Over 100 public health workers participated in this pilot from a range of organisations and sectors of the workforce. Their experiences have been captured and are now informing the ongoing development of the concept.

The success of the skills passport partly relies on the success of the framework. While efforts are being focused on getting the framework right, PHE is also working on the business case and specification for a digital product that will provide an interactive platform for the framework (skills passport). It is important that people working in public health can identify with the framework and have an opportunity to comment on its development.

The link to the consultation survey: surveys.phe.org.uk/PHSKFreview

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the framework or the skills passport send an email to: sp-phskf@phe.gov.uk

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