



Record of proceedings

of the 8th meeting of UK Public Health Register's Public Health Practitioner Conference at The Studio, Cannon Street, Birmingham B2 5EP on Wednesday 15 November 2017

PRESENT: 100 participants
Start: 1015hrs

CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE: Andrew Jones, Chair of UKPHR's Board

UKPHR's Chair, Andrew Jones, welcomed everyone to this 8th meeting of UKPHR's Annual Practitioners' Conference. Describing his own journey to registration, Andrew urged those who were not yet registered practitioners to press on and get registered. The Chair invited **Professor John Middleton, President of the Faculty of Public Health** to give the keynote address on the value of the core public health workforce. John spoke with great commitment about the importance of public health and its greater influence on wider society and his slides are available on UKPHR's website.

Professor Zafar Iqbal, UKPHR's Registrar gave a presentation on UKPHR's perspective, including an update in relation to developments in practitioner registration. He described UKPHR's Accredited Register, and spoke of three issues: (1) Quality assurance/consistency; (2) Recognised standards; and (3) UK-wide coverage – equity of access.

Kate Lees, one of UKPHR's team of Moderators gave a presentation about the work of the Moderators and some of the common queries they receive from practitioners, assessors, verifiers and scheme coordinators.

After a short refreshments break, the Chair invited the audience to engage in discussions at their tables about the registration standards and how these might be amended going forward. Good feedback was received from participants. This was followed by the first round of workshops: (A) The good practice assessors and verifiers see in practitioners' portfolios, presented by Anne Robbins, West Midlands practitioner scheme assessor & Senior Lecturer, Public Health, School of Health Sciences - Birmingham City University; (B) Public health practice – the ethical dimension, presented by Farhang Tahzib, Board Member, Faculty of Public Health & Caroline Vass, Senior Public Health Registrar; and (C) What is a reflective practitioner? Presented by Angela Ellins, Coordinator, North East of England scheme & Em Rahman, Coordinator, Wessex scheme and Head of Public Health Workforce Development Programmes, HEE Wessex.

Lunch and networking followed.

The Chair, assisted by Pav Sull, UKPHR's Registration Services Manager, showed a video from a recently registered registrant via the North East of England scheme, Yusuf Meah, and then made presentations of certificates of registration to 19 practitioners who had achieved registration since last year's conference and who had booked to attend this year's conference.

Members of the audience were asked to attend the second round of workshops: (D) What has and can be done to raise the value and profile of practitioner registration in your local area, presented by Alix Sheppard, Coordinator, East of England scheme; (E) What is a reflective practitioner? Presented by Angela Ellins, Coordinator, North East of England scheme & Em Rahman, Coordinator, Wessex scheme and Head of Public Health Workforce Development Programmes, HEE Wessex; and (F) MECC, the public health role, presented by Nigel Smith, Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager - (Tobacco Control, Physical Activity, MECC, CVD and Sustainability Lead), Public Health England West Midlands.

After a short refreshments break, the final plenary session of the conferences was entitled “Pulling together the strands” and involved a panel discussion of questions and answers, chaired by David Kidney, UKPHR Chief Executive, and comprising UKPHR’s Chair, Andrew Jones, and UKPHR’s Vice Chair, Dr Viv Speller. Questions received from the audience, some directly at this stage and others collected during the day by use of “Slido” were answered by the three participants.

Dr Viv Speller, UKPHR’s Vice Chair provided a summary of the conference’s proceedings. She thanked all presenters, workshop facilitators and the venue staff for a very successful day. She thanked UKPHR’s paid staff for organising an excellent conference. She thanked all members of the audience for their attendance and for ensuring that the conference had been a great success. She announced the date for next year’s Annual Practitioners’ Conference, which will be Wednesday 14th November 2018 at the same venue.

The meeting was closed at 1555hrs.

Feedback received from attendees after the event was very strongly favourable and suggested that overwhelmingly participants enjoyed the conference and found the workshop presentations very useful.