AHP Public Health Meeting

Grier McGhee – AHP Education & Quality Improvement Lead NHS Ayrshire & Arran

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Meeting took place with Grier to discuss the overall aims of the project through NES and how this links with the AHP Public Health Implementation Plan.

The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the opportunities to link opportunities in Public Health into AHP practice education. Other models of this that have been previously tested in NHS Scotland were discussed.

Grier outlined that this is something that has been discussed locally and nationally, however has never fully been implemented due to lack of capacity across the public health service.

A discussion took place regarding the future of this. Grier feels that from a HEI perspective this shouldn’t be an issue as from previous meetings a lot of discussion has taken place about blended practice placements between different services. It may be challenging across some AHP’s, such as Speech and Language Therapy as their placements for example are 1 day a week for 12 weeks for example. This shouldn’t be a problem for more conventional placements such as Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy for example.

The recommendation would be to maybe have an afternoon per week or a day in Public Health alongside the students AHP placement.

It was agreed that it would be worthwhile testing this with a couple of different AHP groups and the outcomes then fed back to the overall AHP practice education leads/group.

In theory this should be an easy thing to set up, however its dependant on the capacity of the Public Health Service and the development of students tasks or opportunities that can be developed in this service.

It was agreed that I would discuss this further with Ruth and try and move this forwards in the future.

Within this meeting we discussed the next steps to promote Public Health across AHP’s upon release of the AHP Public Health Implementation Plan.

Grier felt that the idea of a twitter/social media campaign was a good idea in relation to showcasing the case studies or a snap shot of the AHP’s role in public health that aligned with the 6 public health priorities. This maybe could be a weekly post.

We discussed the AHP day being focused around public health, Grier thought was a great idea. The same was felt for a national webinar

A learn pro module was also discussed.

Local AHP education/training sessions were also seen as a positive.