The evidence and impact of AHPs contribution to Public Health

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Aim to cover

• The AHPs public health journey in England
• What we set out to achieve
• Progress against our goals
• Factors influencing success
• Next steps
The AHP public health ambition

Our Ambition

‘To be recognised as an integral part of the public health system’
Our Ambition – AHPs are recognised as an integral part of the public health workforce

- Well over 170,000 AHPs in UK
- Over 4 million contacts per week
- AHPs work across NHS, social care, education, private and voluntary sectors
- We work across the life course in a wide range of specialities

AHPs have the potential to add to virtually every public health priority
Why AHPs are well placed to be public health practitioners

We routinely incorporate questioning around healthy lifestyles and wellbeing within our assessments.

Many of us have skills in motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioural therapy.

Our interventions enable us to develop an ongoing relationship and rapport with clients.
Early steps

Enthuse AHPs that public health is part of our role

Communicate to public health colleagues how AHPs support their agendas

Develop partnership with professional bodies, CAHPR, Council of Deans for Health, AHP leads, public health organisations…

Constantly raise the profile

Focused work on priority areas
AHP Public health strategy

1. To develop a future AHP workforce equipped with the skills, knowledge and attributes to promote the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and populations.

2. To support AHPs to demonstrate their impact on population level outcomes through robust evaluation and research methods.

3. Promote the contribution AHPs are making to public health.

4. Support positioning of AHPs as strategic public health contributors at local, regional, national and international levels.

5. Empower AHPs to influence the future development of the services in which they work to offer an added value contribution to public health and reducing health inequalities.
Equipping AHPs with public health knowledge and skills
Demonstrating impact

The role of allied health professionals in public health – examples of interventions delivered by allied health professionals that improve the publics’ health
Mapping of Evidence of Impact

10 areas with evidence of impact

http://bit.ly/1LC4RwO
Intervention examples with evidence of impact and practice examples of implementation.

• Orthoptic led eye screening for children aged 4-5 years

• Radiographer led breast screening

• Early intervention by podiatrists to reduce amputation risk in people with peripheral neuropathy

• Speech and language therapy interventions to improve communication skills, academic success, emotional development and social inclusion in children and young people

• Dietetic interventions for weight management in adults and children
Intervention examples with evidence of impact and practice examples of implementation.

- Occupational therapy, physiotherapy and paramedic interventions to prevent falls in older adults
- Physiotherapy interventions to manage incontinence supporting adults to engage in normal activities, remain in work and improve emotional wellbeing
- Physiotherapy interventions to reduce musculoskeletal pain
- Speech and language therapy support to improve speech and swallowing in people post stroke impacting on quality of life, improved morbidity and mortality and reduced hospital stay
Measuring public health impact toolkit

10 impact pathways

Intended to support HCPs measure the impact of day to day interactions

Do…Record…Collate…Impact

Free e-learning tools to support implementation

Promote the contribution of AHPs to public health
Strategic connections

Allied Health Professions into Action

Using Allied Health Professionals to transform health, care and wellbeing.

2016/17 - 2020/21

#AHPsintoAction

Falls and fracture consensus statement
Supporting commissioning for prevention

Produced by Public Health England with the National Falls Prevention Coordination Group member organisations

January 2017

Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential

A plan for improving social mobility through education

December 2017
Empowering AHPs to lead change

1. Prevention as part of my everyday ‘job role’
2. Prevention + opportunistic moments to maximise advice and go further than just my job (MECC)
3. Prevention as part of strategic interventions
Empowering AHPs to lead change

AHPs4PH Advocates

AHPs4PH in collaboration with NHS Improvement

The scheme consists of selected AHPs being supported to deliver a service improvement (SI) project related to public health using recognised improvement framework within their service.

The rationale for the project:

- To encourage implementation of small-scale public health improvement projects
- To build capacity amongst AHPs with service improvement methods
- To build capacity in public health leadership in the Allied Health Professions
  - To develop a suite of case studies
  - To test out the feasibility of this approach
- To grow the AHPs4PH network
Our contribution has been recognised
The time is right for AHPs in public health

- PH leaders see potential of AHPs
- AHPs are changing their practice
- Professional bodies support shift
- Commissioning for prevention
- Academics are preparing workforce
- Policy shift towards prevention
May 2016 AHP public health survey

- Over 2000 responses in 3 weeks
- 87% AHPs said public health is now a core part of their role (76% dietitians)
- 82% see the potential for AHPs to specialise in public health
- 43% of respondents would be interested in becoming a public health champion if such a scheme were available
What has influenced success

Partnership with professional bodies and other national stakeholders

Collaborative leadership

Keeping this relevant and achievable

Use of social media to engage frontline enthusiasts

Connecting the work to organisational priorities
Next steps

AHP public health strategy impact report
  Case studies
  Repeat literature review

Embedding public health into AHPs into Action

Leadership / re-design framework
Thank-you

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