



Welcome to the 2nd issue of the School's e-bulletin.

This month features an update on the multi-professional aspect of our mandate.

School Structure

- The composition of School board has been approved with recruitment underway to fill the positions.
- The Board includes amongst others nursing and physiotherapy colleagues to initiate the collaborative working required to realise the School's aspirations.

National ARCP process

- A working group has been set up to review current processes for best practice, develop a consistent process and draft documentation for the national process.
- The group will contact individuals for information regarding current processes.

Trainee Database

- In order to improve flow of information between the regions, School and Faculty, a central database is being set up to hold training related information including ARCPs, posts etc.
- More information regarding this to follow shortly.

Featured FAQ

How will transfer of trainees into the National School take place?

Although all trainees will become part of the School eventually, arrangements for trainee transfer will take place in discussion with the respective LETBs. This will not affect the delivery of training by your local education provider, nor your terms and conditions of service. The School will also ensure that there are local structures in place to provide support for trainees and trainers. More information regarding this to follow shortly.

For your calendar

- National recruitment applications close 16 September 2014.
- National Conference - WORKING TOGETHER: FOOD FOR THOUGHT showcasing multi-professional Occupational Health - Last few places remaining [Register here](#)



Development of a National School of Occupational Health

Health Education England has funded the development of the multi-professional National School of Occupational Health (NSOH). Currently, many of the professions engaged in OH have identified their own competencies and have different approaches to the training or continuing professional development (CPD) of their members in the specialism of OH, which makes it challenging for a commissioner of OH to know how to identify experienced and competent practitioners for a multi-professional team

The School will complement the proposed new single organisation which, if the proposals are accepted, will host faculties for the respective professional disciplines in OH. The single organisation, under the agreed new title, will agree and oversee the national curricula which will set out requisite competencies. The role of the school will be to ensure that training addresses all the competencies and to quality manage the training process.

The NSOH will hold its inaugural multi-professional conference at the end of September in London and speakers will demonstrate the value and breadth of OH and safety in the food industry, from farming to shop floor.

The Chief medical officer (CMO), in her 2013 review of the nation's health, acknowledged a steady drop in sickness absence rates over the past 10 years, but indicated that we must continue to drive improvement in occupational health and addressing the poor provision of OH, as, in 2009, just one in eight workers had any access to occupational health.

It has become clear to strategists in OH that to sustain the current cultural drive to improve the health and wellbeing of the national workforce there needs to be a supportive framework, to provide quality markers of OH services and recognised competencies across the OH workforce, to support generic healthcare professionals into the specialism and to encourage employers to invest in OH services.

This requires a major change in practice and considerable facilitated joint working, but the outcomes aim to:

- strengthen and pull together post-registration education across professions in OH
- improved efficiency in care for individual patients
- improve use of risk analysis and addressing of organisations' OH needs
- publish nationally recognised skills and competencies of OH practitioners
- provide easier access to information on professions working in OH
- forge stronger alignments between the OH professionals

For most practitioners, training in OH begins post-graduation and provision of training sits outside the NHS. For many professions, the provision of the specialist training has been developed by the specialist practitioners, who devote their own time to manage the quality of those coming up through the specialism. The established School will offer a sustainable quality management system for OH training, thereby consistency in training of OH specialists.

The first piece of work is identifying the competencies in OH which are generic to the different professions and to develop a competency framework in OH. From this baseline, individual professions will then be able to develop their specialist competencies, to which training providers may align their courses and which commissioners of OH services can use to identify a quality multi-professional team to meet their industry's needs.

An on-line consultation and analysis will run through the last quarter of 2014 to which all specialist bodies in occupational health and safety will be invited to contribute, the results will be shared with those professions and delivered as part of a report with recommendations to HEE in 2015.

1. Davies, S.C. (2014) *Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, Surveillance Volume, 2012: On the State of the Public's Health*. London: Department of Health
2. Black (2009) *Working for a Healthier Tomorrow*. TSO

