

Theme 1: Supporting the changing needs of the AHP workforce

Objective 1.1	Make the most of the skills that AHP staff (working at all levels of the Career Framework for Health) have by providing educational support that connects practice and policy.
Objective 1.2	Take account of the wider health agenda by supporting learning, within and between health and other sectors (e.g. voluntary, social care, education and criminal justice).
Objective 1.3	Enable AHPs to access and use learning and development opportunities to support change, improvement and innovation.
Objective 1.4	Provide opportunities that help AHPs to make the most of work-based learning opportunities.

We will continue to:

- Roll out AHP Practice Placement Agreements
- Further develop the Quality Standards for Practice Placements
- Support the development of 'Practice Educators'
- Develop different models of practice education that support the next generation of AHPs
- Support AHPs to make the most of work based learning opportunities

By the end of March 2012 we will:

- Support AHPs to develop in their role and to deliver even better services through the AHP Career Fellowship Scheme.
- Develop a plan for a network that will help AHPs who take part in our learning activities to share the knowledge and skills they gain. We will decide on a name for this network that will be like a University / College Alumni association. We will support the AHPs in the network to contribute to the development and implementation of future initiatives.
- Provide guidance for modernising AHP careers to make sure that people thinking about becoming an AHP are aware of the opportunities available across the Career Framework for Health (Skills for Health, 2010). We will seek feedback on the usefulness of the guidance from practitioners, managers, education providers and potential recruits to the AHP professions.
- Support AHPs to use the AHP Skills Maximisation Toolkit. We will produce two new books for the Toolkit. The new books will help learners and managers to use their learning to change how they do their jobs.
- Continue to support the pilot between NHS Lothian and its partner universities of NMAHP Clinical Academic Research Careers and roles that enable the translation of research and evidence into practice.