**HEI Feedback – Glasgow Caledonian University**

**AHP Public Health**

**Question asked:**

*How public health in its broadest sense is included within pre reg programmes for different AHPs at different HEIs?*

*Is there any previous practice placements that have linked with Public Health Services or had a particular focus on public health?*

**Yvonne Brogan - Human Nutrition and Dietetic programme Lecturer**

I had a look at the Guidance document that you sent and I feel confident that the Human Nutrition and Dietetic programme (HND) is meeting most of the recommendations set out in the document. Our programme is accredited by the British Dietetic Association (BDA) and Public Health is included in one of the domains of the BDA curriculum framework (<https://www.bda.uk.com/practice-and-education/education/pre-registration.html>). The HND programme was reaccredited in December 2020 and one of our aims in our newly accredited programme is to further integrate and strengthen Public Health throughout the curriculum. Our goal is to produce dietetic graduates that are qualified and regulated health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat dietary and nutritional problems at an individual and wider public-health level. They use the most up-to-date public health and scientific research on food, health and disease which they translate into practical guidance to enable people to make appropriate lifestyle and food choices.

If you need more detail on the topics covered and where we cover them I can provide this.

To date dietetic placements have been managed by the Scottish Cluster Dietetic Placements (SCDP) agreement and are NHS based. Dietetics falls behind other AHPs in relation to role merging placements. However, there is some development work taking place at GCU on providing role emerging placements for dietetic students. It is in its infancy but the placements that are being developed are within schools and have a public health focus with a blended approach with a view to raising the public health role of RDs, aligned with the UK-wide AHP public health strategic framework (2019-24), students would support the development/implementation of community initiatives (food pantries, after school cooking classes (parents and children), menu planning, food hygiene), promoting sustainability, healthy lifestyle education, family learning, working with home-school link workers, health and wellbeing teams etc.

We are also very fortunate to have an Honorary lecturer in our department who is a Public Health Nutrition Consultant. She contributes to curriculum development and delivery.  We also have a couple of other Public Health experts who contribute to delivery of the programme.

**Louise McKendrick – Lecturer Diagnostic Imaging - GCU**

In our Diagnostic Imaging Pre Reg programme our students undertake placements within screening which comes under the bracket of Population Healthcare within Public Health (I think!) and obviously they have a huge role within radiation protection which comes under Health Protection. They also undertake modules that look at the social determinants of health, marginalised patient groups, health promotion etc.

**Douglas Lachlan – Programme Lead Physiotherapy – GCU**

Essentially both modules cover the basics of health promotion and behaviour change.

* The MSc programme has a broader theoretical perspective of health promotion and project management; tackling how individuals and communities can influence behaviour change. We work with community organisations to co-create interventions with their service users needs in mind. It’s a very productive process but gets to the heart of health awareness and how we as healthcare workers have a pivotal role in empowering change, using a community asset-based model.
* With the BSc Level 1s we set the context for health promotion around promoting physical activity as a behaviour (not just an intervention) – its more “physio” related and more light-touch than the MSc module. We do cover policy around Sustainable Development Goals, health inequalities and the WHO global health targets. We focus on social demographics, education and the early years (in particular the “Glasgow Effect”). We also cover the role of spontaneous physical activity, active travel and how we maintain independent living and mobility in the older populations.

In my experience of community co-creation, any AHP PHI plan needs a wide level of participation from a variety of stakeholders (in particular third sector, who can really mobilise their assets and resources to support shifts in behaviour) to allow it to become a more sustainable change.

I think students can play a huge role in piloting and evaluating many of these service developments.

**Sharon Blumenthal – Senior Lecturer Physiotherapy and Interprofessional Education – Glasgow Caledonian University**

Microsoft team meeting took place with Sharon

Sharon reported that at GCU Public health is implemented throughout the curriculum as a whole, however there is more of a focus throughout the interprofessional modules.

Upon discussion this included health promotion, health improvement, human rights and Asset Based Approaches.

The student throughout this module have also a set project to work on that looks to improve the health of the population in certain areas of Glasgow. Reduction of smoking for example.

Sharon reported that one of the challenges is that students at this stage of their training don’t necessarily value their role in public health as they don’t see it as part of their professional identity.

Sharon feels that more work is done to promote the interprofesional role, which could be done further in clinical placements.

Sharon consented to this information to be shared.