The new public health landscape and the role of the librarian

Caroline Timothy – Public Health & Commissioning Librarian, Warrington Public Health / Warrington CCG
A little bit about me…

- Week is divided between Warrington Public Health and Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Embedded into the 2 teams that I work with
What we will discuss today

- Public Health in Warrington
- The Public Health (PH) & Commissioning Library Service
- Examples of PH work in Warrington
- Next Steps
What Warrington has to offer

• Warrington is the first town to join the Healthy Cities Network.

• Warrington is fortunate in having plenty of opportunities for economic regeneration (on the top list of economically prosperous cities). Now we have public health work with planning in the borough.

  – So, what works when tackling local health inequalities?
    • Root causes
    • Human behaviour
    • Economy and regeneration
Three Key Domains of Public Health Practice:

Health Protection:
- Health Improvement
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Lifetyles
- Disease surveillance
- Family/Community
- Equity
  - Service planning
  - Clinical effectiveness
  - Clinical governance
- Efficiency
  - Audit & evaluation
  - Improving Services

Health Protection:
- Radiation
- Environmental health Hazards
- Emergency Response
- Chemicals and poisons
- Infectious diseases
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Main Library Services provided to the PH team

• Literature searches or evidence reviews – ILLs

• Current awareness – monthly bulletins, daily news page, emails
The PH & Commissioning Service – Literature Searching

• Important to think ‘out of the box’ - searching and current awareness
  – ‘Traditional’ resources like NHS Evidence, HDAS, Cochrane don’t always hold answers
  – Google - with nhs.uk, gov.uk, etc.

• Who’s already done it? E.g. service specifications, service redesigns, case studies, well-being strategies, from other organisations
The PH & Commissioning Service – Current Awareness

Public Health & Commissioning

My name is Caroline Timothy and I am the Public Health & Commissioning Librarian for Warrington Public Health and Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). I mainly work with the Public Health team on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays and with the CCG on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays. This can vary depending on meetings and events. My contact details are:

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Caroline Timothy

Literature searching

I can carry out a literature search on any topic or subject of your choice. By using the literature search service you can be certain that the information is from a professional search of the evidence base. It is also possible to do a mediated literature search to help you develop your searching skills.

Request a Literature Search

Evidence-Based Practice training sessions

Information literacy training sessions can be delivered 1-2-1 or as group based sessions and can be general or designed for your particular area of interest.

Current awareness

A variety of current awareness services to keep you up to date with the latest evidence can be delivered straight to your inbox each month. If you are interested in receiving electronic tables of contents (eTOCs), Horizon Scanning bulletins (produced by library colleagues in the North West) or a bulletin produced specifically for your area of interest please let me know.

Access to print and online resources
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) considers a wide range of factors that affect the health and wellbeing of the people of Warrington. The objective of the JSNA is to involve partner organisations, such as the local NHS, local authorities, police, fire service and third sector organisations in order to provide a top level, holistic view of current and future need within the borough. The JSNA is used to agree key priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of all our communities, at the same time as reducing health inequalities. Read more in the Introduction to the JSNA.

The Warrington JSNA is divided up into five 'domains':

- Demography, socio-economic and environmental
- Health-related behaviour and risk factors
- The burdens of ill health
- Children and young people
- Vulnerable adults and older people

Demography, socio-economic and environmental

Population trends, poverty, deprivation and environmental factors:
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Case study 1 - Neighbourhood Working

- Director of Public Health asks for literature review and a report on Neighbourhood Working
- Aim - to look at neighbourhood functions and identify the best model to deliver improvements
- Neighbourhood working is a loose concept and can be interpreted differently in different areas. It could be really broad and look at all teams within communities
Case study 1 - Neighbourhood Working

• When trying to scope this, we decided to look at holistic approaches to improving the wellbeing of communities so we did not include teams/staff who work directly with individuals/have a caseload, etc.

• In terms of searching for the evidence, we decided to look at community development/geographical partnership working, etc.
Neighbourhood Working – the search

• Sat together to conduct literature search
• We established certain limits (UK based studies, evaluations where possible, 2000 onwards, etc.)
• I then put all the information that we found into a results synthesis document and added further data from additional searches
• Muna wrote a report based on the evidence, statistics from the PH Research and Intelligence Team and local information
Case study 2 - Evidence of the impact that welfare reform is having on mental health

- Director of PH and the Health Improvement Specialist for Mental Health request search
- Results show that more time is needed to fully understand the extent of any impact from welfare reforms on mental health
- DPH also asked for a few paragraphs on The Impact of Unemployment and Hardship on Mental Health
- Main sections were demographics, stigma and social isolation, and policy approaches and interventions
- Specialty Registrar Public Health uses this in report to the Council Policy Committee.
Case study 3 - Cardiovascular disease (CVD)

- Specialty Registrar Public Health working on a report on CVD!
- Sat together to decide on level of evidence to use
- Specialty Registrar Public Health uses this in report
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Doing, supporting and using public health research

The Public Health England strategy for research, development and innovation

Draft of consultation paper
Next Steps

• Resources for research:
  – explore opportunities for collaboratively funding resources for accessing the published evidence base
  – LAPH teams have access to Athens, but there are further resources that would be helpful, particularly with regard to the wider brief of many PH teams in LAs
  – it is likely to be more cost-effective if there is a centralised agreement for subscription to additional databases
Any Questions?

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