

Faculty of Health

People in Public Health

A study of approaches to develop and support people in public health roles



www.leedsmet.ac.uk/piph/

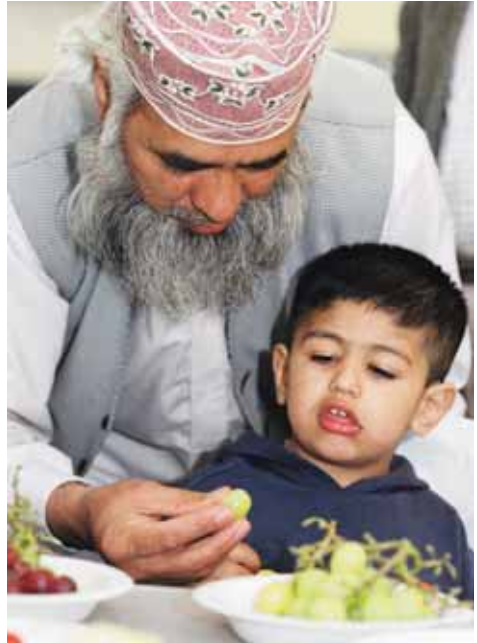


People in Public Health

Everybody has a part to play in improving health and well-being for individuals, families and communities. Some people without professional qualifications or experience (lay people), take on roles in promoting health and well-being in the places they live and work. **People in Public Health** is a national study that is looking at different approaches to involve lay people in public health roles. We already know current practice in the UK is very diverse and there are many different schemes in operation. The box below gives some examples of the types of public health roles lay people hold. Public health practitioners and health services can be involved in many ways – in commissioning, in training and development, in running projects and in working alongside volunteers and lay workers.

Some examples of lay roles

- Community health activists
- 'Healthwise' tutors running groups
- Health apprentices
- Breastfeeding peer support
- Outreach workers
- Buddy schemes
- Voluntary walk leaders and sports coaches
- Peer support workers
- Community health educators



The People in Public Health study is being undertaken to improve our understanding of valid approaches to supporting people in these types of roles. We want to find out about the different ways people are involved and what health services can do to recruit, develop and support them. We also want to find out the views of community members with experience of public health services led or delivered by lay people.

This exciting and high profile study is being undertaken by a multidisciplinary team from Leeds Metropolitan University in partnership with Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust and the Regional Public Health group, Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber.

What will the study involve?

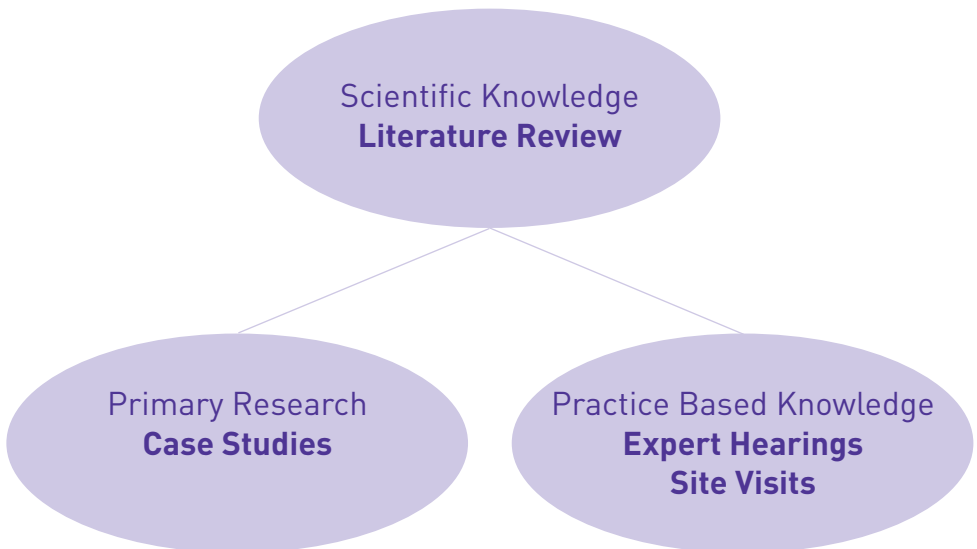
People in Public Health will run from 2007-2008. There are three main elements:

1. **Literature review** – this will look at other research studies and reports to identify the range of roles, different approaches used and what the issues are for service delivery, organisation and support.
2. **Expert hearings** – these are public events where we will ask a number of individuals with specific experience or expertise to come and share their knowledge and debate the issues with us.
3. **Case studies of projects**– a small number of different types of projects or services will be studied in-depth. We will be interviewing a number of people, including professionals, community members active in the projects and service users, to listen to their experiences and views.

Outcomes

This study will lead to a better understanding of approaches to develop and support lay people in public health roles, and how those approaches can be applied in current public health practice. We hope it will result in shared learning and better dissemination of good practice. As well as research reports, we will be establishing a searchable online database of published research, projects and contacts in England.

'People in Public Health: A study of approaches to develop and support lay people in public health roles' is independent research commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) Programme. This research programme is funded by the Department of Health.





Register your interest!

We want to find out as much as possible about what is going on in practice and also give you the opportunity to link into our study. Please consider joining our Register of Interest where we are inviting individuals and organisations to give brief details of any projects involving lay people. There is also a section if you would only like to receive information about the progress of the study.

Contact details:

Website: www.leedsmet.ac.uk/piph/

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Or contact Marianne Kennedy (Research Administrator) m.kennedy@leedsmet.ac.uk, tel: 0113 812 4334 or Jane South who is leading the research team on j.south@leedsmet.ac.uk.