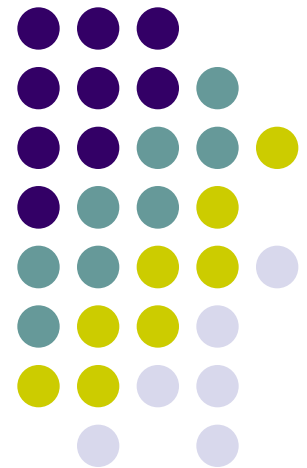


# Finding the Evidence for Public Health

Richard Crookes  
NHS Nottingham City  
East Midlands' Library Trainers' Forum  
(EMLTF)

EAHIL Dublin 2009





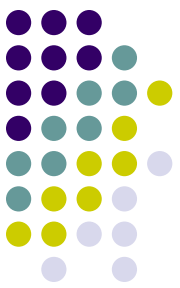
# Public Health

- What is Public Health?
  - *“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society” (Acheson, 1988)*
- What is [Public Health] Intelligence?
  - *“...the appropriate, tailored collection and interpretation of information so as to be useful to somebody” (Jenner, 2008)*
- Public Health Analysts/ specialist
  - *Work in or for PH, specialise in analysing, interpreting and presenting data*



# Background I

- *Informing Healthier Choices, DH (2006)*
- *Development Plan for Public Health Intelligence in East Midlands (v.4) (2007)*
- *Public Health Skills and Career Framework PHRU (2008)*
- East Midlands Public Health Observatory (EMPHO)
- South West Public Health Observatory (SWPHO)
- East Midlands Healthcare Workforce Deanery (EMHWD)
- East Midlands Library Trainers' Forum (EMLTF)



# Background II

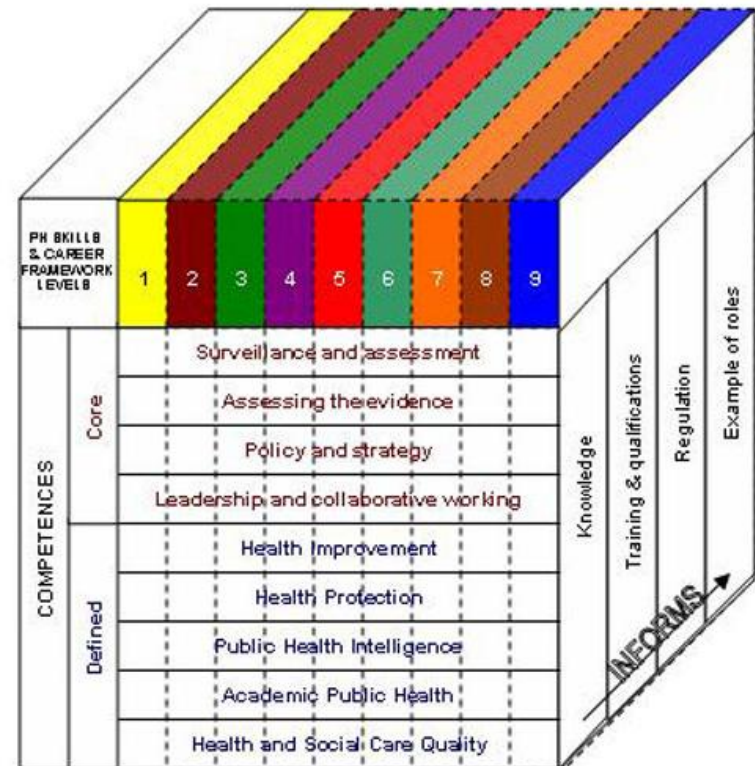
- Informing Healthier Choices
  - *“To improve the availability and quality of health information and intelligence across England and to increase its use to support population health improvement, health protection and work on care standards and quality” (p.2)*
- PH Skills & Careers Framework
  - *“...a tool for describing the skills and knowledge needed across all groups, domains and levels of the public health workforce” (p.4)*
- DH commissioned EMPHO & SWPHO to develop a training course for public health analysts looking to increase their knowledge and skills in public health intelligence (PHI)
- East Midlands’ Trainers’ Forum (EMLTF) approached for involvement in developing a “Day 9” of the proposed 8-day PHI training course

# PH Skills & Career Framework



- Core competency – Assessing the Evidence
- Defined competency – Public Health Intelligence
- Public Health analysts
- Framework levels 4-6

Public Health Skills and Career Framework



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# Assessing the Evidence

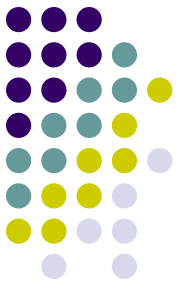
- Effectiveness of interventions, programmes and services to improve population health and well-being
- Key elements
  - Finding & retrieving evidence
  - Synthesising & critically appraising evidence
  - Interpreting & balancing evidence from multiple sources
  - Making recommendations on the basis of evidence
  - Informing decision-making on the basis of evidence

# Public Health Intelligence training I



- Collaborative partnership to address PH-related knowledge and skills needed by analysts, researchers in PCTs, SHAs etc. in E Mids
- EMPHO / SWPHO: 8 day workshops
  - Day 1 – Background & context
  - Day 2 – Data sources & techniques
  - Day 3 – Basis Statistics
  - Day 4 – Applied PHI
  - Day 5 – The Effective Analyst
  - Day 6 – Advanced Statistics
  - Day 7 – Surveys & Modelling
  - Day 8 – GIS
- April – June 2008
- Librarian attended several courses

# Public Health Intelligence Training II



- Day 9 – Finding the Evidence in Public Health
- Tapton House, Chesterfield, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008
- 5 librarians from EMLTF
- Library & Information services renumerated
- Course content:
  - The National Library for Health (NLH)
  - The Cochrane Library
  - Search 2.0
  - Critical Appraisal
  - Web 2.0
- 20 PH professionals registered from across the East Midlands





# Delivery

- 16 delegates attended
- Information packs provided
  - Schedule
  - Handouts
  - Contact details of local librarians
- Mixture of presentations, didactic instructions & hands-on practice
- 2 additional librarians attended to offer hands-on support



# Participant Evaluations

- **Purple**

*What will you take away with you in terms of learning?*

- **Blue**

*What worked well for you in the workshop?*

- **Green**

*Anything that would be better if done differently if so what / how?*

- **Yellow**

*Areas that you feel that you would like to revisit in more depth?*



# Participant Comments

- *“Web 2.0 – new knowledge; very helpful to see how to use web for professional development not just social interests...”*
- *“A greater understanding of how to conduct a structure search for evidence...”*
- *“Particularly enjoyed the practical hands-on aspects and was grateful for support from tutors”*
- *“Needed a bit more time to explore and expand on what was shown”*
- *“Felt sessions gave me a good base to further explore all areas”*



# Participant Feedback

Participant Evaluation	Topic Areas	Occurrences
<b>What will you take away with you in terms of learning?</b>	National Library for Health (NLH)	5
	Web 2.0 (including RSS)	5
	Critical Appraisal (appraise)	5
<b>What Worked well for You in the workshops?</b>	Use of laptops (PC)	5
	Hands-on, interactivity	4
<b>Anything That Would be Better if Done Differently?</b>	More time, rushed	4
	More detail, depth	4
<b>Areas That You Feel You would Like to Revisit in More Depth</b>	Cochrane	4
	Web 2.0	4
	Critical appraisal	3



# Participants' Feedback

- What will you take away?
  - *NLH, Web 2.0, Critical appraisal*
- What worked well for you?
  - *Hands-on, interactivity, group work*
- Anything that would be better if done differently?
  - *More time, more detail*
- Areas that you would like to revisit in depth?
  - *Web 2.0, Cochrane, Critical Appraisal*



# Future Training...

- Day 9 considered a success
- Invaluable networking with regional colleagues
- Development of targeted information literacy sessions
- Repeat module planned for 2009
- New librarians recruited
- Focus on searching for and appraising the evidence
- PHOs developing their own PHI programmes



# References

- Acheson, D. (1988) *Public health in England*. London: HMSO.
- *Development Plan for Public Health Intelligence in East Midlands (v.4)* (2007)
- *Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations*, Department of Health: London (2006)
- *Public Health Skills and Career Framework: Multidisciplinary/multi-agency/multi-professional*, Public Health Resource Unit: Oxford (2008)

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