

Developing Public Health placements for student nurses

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CONTEXT:

- * Public health nurses comprise the largest professional segment of the workplace in public health (RCN, 2020).
- * The new NMC standards require a greater depth and breadth of understanding and application of health promotion, protection, and ill health prevention as per the NHS Long Term Plan (2019).

ACTION TAKEN:

- * Middlesex University and Barnet Council worked together to develop the first council hosted full public health placements for student nurses in the public health team
- * 2 child health students to date, more students to follow.
- * Positive evaluation of the experience by all involved.



STUDENT FEEDBACK:

When out in placement we need to use evidence-based practice to give rationale to the care we are giving to our patients. When the opportunity to spend five weeks of our placement in Public Health we jumped at the chance.

Public Health is all about our community. The decisions made for healthy eating in schools, prevention of diseases through immunisation programmes, flu vaccinations, community centres and support for families, social prescribing, smoking cessation to name just a few all stem from the Public Health offices.

THE TEAM FOCUSED ON CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH TO SUPPORT THE FIELD OF STUDY:

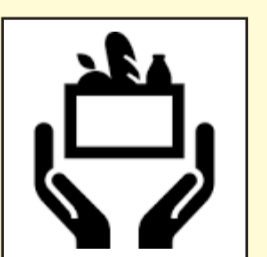
"Listening to the impact that the health schools project has had on school children was inspiring. Growing their own vegetables at school AND being able to eat the produce! Healthy lives start with healthy children. Educating from young the importance of a nutritious diet will have positive outcomes for future generations."

THE STUDENTS GAINED MANY WIDER SKILLS WHICH ARE NEEDED AS NURSES AND SUPPORTED THEIR DECISION-MAKING ABILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

"Data analysis is a vital part of decision making in Public Health. How many people will be affected? What is the demographic of the people? How many have been impacted? Can we see a trend? What's the uptake on vaccinations and which areas are not following through with vaccinations? What are the reasons and what can be done to help?"

NEXT STEPS:

- * To host more students and undertake a wider evaluation
- * To share the area with other boroughs and HEIs to promote a more strategic engagement with the public health agenda and NMC requirements- at conference/ blog/ vlog/ other dissemination
- * To develop a toolkit to support public health placement opportunities for student nurses.



REFERENCES:

- * **NHS (2019) The Long Term Plan**
Available at: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/online-version/overview-and-summary/>
- * **NMC (2018) Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education**
Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-framework-for-nursing-and-midwifery-education/>
- * **RCN (2020) The role of the public health nurse**
Available at: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health/the-role-of-nursing-staff-in-public-health>