

OVERVIEW: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONS NETWORK (PPN NORTH WEST)



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The Psychological Professions Network (PPN North West) is a new multi-professional network established with the support of Health Education North West (HENW) in collaboration with the Centre for Professional Workforce Development (CPWD).

The network brings together a wide range of psychological practitioners from across the region including: psychologists, counsellors, psychotherapists, clinical academics, trainers and trainees, and the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) workforce including psychological wellbeing practitioners and high intensity cognitive behaviour therapists.

The network has a growing membership of over 500 practitioners, a developing web resource and weekly news bulletin. Nationally it is already well regarded, with its leadership team and steering board sitting on regional and national groups for research, workforce development and education. The network has a wealth of talent amongst its growing membership which includes practitioners, educationalists and researchers who have national and international reputations in their fields.

Background

PPN North West grew out of collaboration between senior psychological practitioners and NHS commissioners in the North West. Building on the rapid growth of the psychological workforce under the [IAPT programme](#) and with the support of senior clinical and academic psychologists and counsellors in the region, HENW supported the establishment of this network which launched in February 2014 at its first annual conference.

For further details of the network's launch event [click here](#).



Purpose

'No Health Without Mental Health' (2011), a cross governmental strategy states that good mental health is fundamental to our physical health and wellbeing. A key function of the network is to extend the reach of psychology and psychological approaches into all areas of health and medicine, and to support the transfer of evidence based approaches into education and the development of excellence across the whole of health care.

PPN North West has a workforce and strategic focus. It provides a hub for professionals looking for information and networking on workforce development, education, clinical excellence and research. It also actively supports the development of communities of practice that focus on psychological wellbeing and offers support to a range of special interest groups.

The network works actively with HENW and key stakeholders to share intelligence about education, best practice and workforce development in order to inform strategic planning. It acts as a lead consultative group and works with commissioners, providers and other partner organisations on the best provision of psychological services in mental and physical health care.

Benefits

The network has strong links with workforce innovations involving psychology and IAPT, long term medical conditions, children and young people's services, military mental health, the deaf community, black and ethnic minority communities, older people, genetic medicine, cancer care and learning disabilities.

If you are interested in understanding more about how psychological approaches can improve the effectiveness and experience of your area of health care PPN North West will link you into the considerable expertise of psychological professionals within the North West.

Key Dates

PPN North West's second Annual Conference will be held on 4th March 2015. Watch the [website](#) for further information.

Useful Links

Website: nwppn.nhs.uk
Email: ppn.northwest@lancashirecare.nhs.uk
Twitter: twitter.com/NWPPN

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