

# ENGLISH NATIONAL HEALTHY UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

## OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRESS UPDATE

In 2008, UCLan received funding from the Higher Education Academy Health Sciences and Practice Subject Centre and the Department of Health for a National Research and Development Project on Healthy Universities (Dooris and Doherty, 2009) – and, building on this, is now (jointly with Manchester Metropolitan University) leading the HEFCE-funded project ‘Developing Leadership and Governance for Healthy Universities’.

### 1. DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTHY UNIVERSITIES

#### 1.1 Overview

Funded for two years through HEFCE’s Leadership, Governance and Management fund, the project is led jointly by UCLan and MMU, working in partnership with Leeds Trinity University, Nottingham Trent University, Teesside University, the University of the West of England, the Royal Society for Public Health and the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education. Responding to growing interest across the sector and building on findings from a national research study, the project will provide leadership on Healthy Universities – thereby increasing understanding of ‘what works’ in creating and sustaining change and facilitating the effective introduction, implementation and embedding of whole system approaches to student, staff and community health/well-being.

The aims of the project are to:

- *Strengthen the English National Healthy Universities Network:* Responding to a clearly identified need and strongly articulated demand, the project will work with existing members to strengthen, expand and formalise governance arrangements of the Network. It is thus intended that a key output will be a robust and strengthened National Healthy Universities Network able to provide leadership and support to HEIs – with a dedicated co-ordinator, an interactive and dynamic virtual ‘hub’ and a programme of training, and development activities.
- *Generate and Disseminate Web-Based Guidance Tools and Case Studies:* Supporting the work of the National Network, the project will develop and test a set of tangible web-based guidance tools and institutional case studies that will be disseminated across the sector to support the widespread adoption, application, leadership, governance and embedding of the whole system Healthy University approach.
- *Support Further National Developments:* Building on the findings of the National Research and Development Project, the project will provide an expert advisory role in relation to the possible development of a national programme/framework.

#### 1.2 Progress to Date

To date the project team has:

- appointed a 0.6FTE Network Coordinator, who took up post on 07 September 2009 and is based within the Healthy Settings Development Unit at UCLan



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- established an operational-level Project Board comprising project staff members representatives from partner universities, which has met twice and agreed Terms of Reference
- established a Leadership Advisory Group comprising senior level representatives from partner universities and national stakeholder organisations
- identified the English National Healthy Universities Network as the project's stakeholder reference group
- expanded the English National Healthy Universities Network membership to include the Royal Society of Public Health partner HEIs
- consulted the English National Healthy Universities Network about priority areas for guidance tools and case studies and agreed final areas with Project Board members
- established links with other relevant initiatives – e.g. Delivering Sustainable High Performance through an Engaged, Resilient Workforce; National Healthy FE programme
- agreed the scope and functionality of the website, applied for the url 'www.healthyuniversities.ac.uk' and developed an action plan for implementation.

### 1.3 Next Steps

The next steps are to:

- agree a communications strategy including national press coverage
- produce and disseminate a quarterly e-newsletter
- develop and launch the website
- plan a schedule of meetings and events for the English National Healthy Universities Network
- agree a format and priority themes for guidance tools and case studies.

## 2. NATIONAL HEALTHY UNIVERSITIES FRAMEWORK PROJECT

### 2.1 Background and Overview

In September 2009, the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) was awarded funding from the Department of Health to produce recommendations for the development of a National Healthy Universities Framework for England. RSPH have subsequently commissioned UCLan (with MMU) to deliver the following project objectives:

- To articulate a model for Healthy Universities whereby the healthy settings approach is applied within the higher education sector.
- To produce recommendations for the development of a National Healthy Universities Framework.
- To align and co-ordinate the development of a National Healthy Universities Framework with the HEFCE-funded project 'Developing Leadership and Governance for Healthy Universities'.

The project runs from October 2009 to March 2010 and it has been agreed that it should be developed and implemented in tandem with the HEFCE-funded 'Developing Leadership and Governance for Healthy Universities' Project – reporting to the Leadership Advisory Group in order to ensure effective co-ordination and synergy.



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## 2.2 Progress to Date

The project team has:

- produced a draft paper articulating a model for Healthy Universities
- produced a draft paper exploring options for developing a National Healthy Universities Framework
- held a consultation workshop with members of the English National Healthy Universities Network.

## 2.3 Next Steps

The next steps are to:

- conduct further consultation with sub-groups drawn from the membership of the English National Healthy Universities Network and Leadership Advisory Group
- produce and submit recommendations relating to an appropriate model for Healthy Universities; the development and operationalisation of a National Framework for Healthy Universities in England; and next steps for progressing the Healthy Universities agenda and ensuring effective co-ordination and/or integration of initiatives.

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