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Call for local evaluations on Wider Public Health Workforce

The Professional Standards Authority welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this call.

About the Professional Standards Authority

As you may know the Authority promotes the health, safety and wellbeing of patients, service users and the public by raising standards in regulation and registration of people working in health and care. We are an independent body, accountable to the UK Parliament.

As part of our work we:

- Oversee nine health and care professional regulators and report annually to Parliament on their performance
- Conducts audits and investigations and can appeal fitness to practise cases to the courts if sanctions are unduly lenient and it is in the public interest
- Conduct research and advise the four UK governments on improvements in regulation
- Promote our concept of right-touch regulation and publish papers on regulatory policy and practice
- Accredit health and care occupational registers to improve consumer protection and raise standards.

More information about our work and the approach we take is available at www.professionalstandards.org.uk

Our response to this call

We suggest that when you undertake a cross mapping and review of existing evaluation reports on the wider public health workforce you take account of the wider workforce covered by our Accredited Registers Programme.

As mentioned above, we operate a programme to accredit health and care occupational registers to improve consumer protection and raise standards. This programme was established by the *Health and Social Care Act (2012)* to provide assurance about health professionals not regulated by statute. There are 19 Accredited Registers to date,

covering 25 occupations and approximately 70,000 practitioners. An up to date list of accredited registers is provided on our website:

<https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers/find-a-register>

Our accreditation programme requires that registers set standards of practice for an occupation and issue guidance, set standards of education and quality assure courses, check practitioners' competence and behaviour before registering them, encourage practitioners to continue to develop their skills, respond to complaints about practitioners and exclude them from the register as necessary to protect the public.

Furthermore, we are working with the Royal Society of Public Health on a project to assess whether or not the wider workforce covered by the Accredited Registers Programme could be used to monitor and improve the public's health. The project starts this month. A group of Accredited Registers practitioners will be trained by the Society to deliver NHS health checks and their delivery will be piloted for three months. After the pilot we will write a joint report with the relevant findings to be published in the Autumn 2016.

General information about the programme is available on our website:

<http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers>

We would be pleased to discuss this response further with you. Please feel free to contact me at rick.borges@professionalstandards.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Rick Borges
Accreditation Manager