

Bringing it all together: a knowledge translation project on community-centred approaches in public health

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This workshop will examine the development and impact of a national knowledge translation project aimed at improving access evidence and learning on community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing. The project 'Working with Communities – Empowerment, Evidence and Learning', was jointly supported and steered by Public Health England and NHS England. The rationale was the need for better knowledge exchange to support a more systemic adoption of community-centred and asset-based approaches within public health. It was recognised that existing evidence was scattered around and lack of shared terminology often hindered the transfer of scaleable and effective models. The project therefore sought to draw together and disseminate evidence and develop a conceptual framework to support mainstreaming community engagement and community development in public health. The first phase resulted in the publication by PHE and NHS England of 'A Guide to Community-Centred Approaches for Health and Wellbeing' in February 2015. This introduced a new family of community-centred approaches setting out different intervention types and signposting to sources of evidence.

A year on from publication of the guide, the workshop will consider its uptake and impact and how it has been used in public health practice. The presenters will reflect on how knowledge exchange was facilitated and what worked well. Examples will be presented showing how the family of approaches has been used as a tool for commissioning, advocacy/influencing, guideline development and practice. Participants will be invited to discuss:

- the relevance and fit of the family to public health practice.
- challenges and opportunities to increase access to and utilisation of evidence on community approaches
- discuss how transferable models from practice can be shared more widely.

The workshop will conclude by summarising potential future directions for developing a national resource to support ongoing dissemination of evidence and learning in this field.