

Health Education East of England

Public Health Training Programme Placement Guidelines

This document provides guidance on the principles and process for moves between training placements

Context

Training in public health takes an indicative five years. During this period all StRs will follow the requirements for CCT, including award of MFPH and satisfactory completion of all learning outcomes defined in the new curriculum. A fundamental requirement of the curriculum is experience of the broad range of public health practice both in content and in context.

Specialty Registrars are expected to have experience of a minimum of two different training locations and a three month placement in a health protection unit. In practice most StRs will have at least three service placements during training. Moving training base is a requirement of the programme. Educational need will remain the prime consideration in determining placements.

First placement

StRs are placed in a generalist PH organisation for their first placement. This is allocated at recruitment and will take account of the training resource available. This placement will normally last for 24 – 30 months and will take the registrar through Parts A and B and achievement of learning outcomes for phase 1 & 2.

During the first placement the trainee will spend three months at the local health protection unit. This attachment will be arranged for a period after Part A

StRs are encouraged to consider with their educational supervisor all opportunities to take up special projects that will expose them to working across organisations while in this first placement. Such opportunities could work on a split week or short focussed period basis.

Subsequent placements

Placements later in training are planned with registrar educational needs and career aspirations in mind. The majority of placements in phase 3 will be within the deanery.. The planning process begins with the 'halfway meeting' held between the registrar and TPD around the time of Part B when a stock take of experience and achievement is undertaken and a forward look at intention and need addressed.

It may be possible under special circumstances for StRs to be placed outside the programme. Such placements must be shown to be a clear part of a career plan and offer experience unavailable within the programme. Placements outside the programme must be considered early in order to ensure prospective training approval, postgraduate dean's approval and appropriate arrangements with the Programme Director of the programme in which the special placement is located. There are formal procedures to be followed for out of programme approval which may take up to three months to be granted through the deanery, FPH and GMC.

Placements abroad

The GMC requires that placement abroad for training is prospectively approved and is a stated requirement of the curriculum. If these conditions are not met, time spent abroad may not be counted for training. StRs will only be allowed to take time from training to work abroad under special circumstances. Funding will not normally be provided in support.

Process

Final decision on placement rests with the Programme Director. StRs should discuss proposals early. The TPD will facilitate a discussion with the TLC of the proposed placement. A record of placements will be kept on the training database.

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