Programme Advisory Board
Information Sheet

Overview

The overall purpose of the Programme Advisory Board (PAB) is to advise the Programme Director on the identification and prioritisation of research topics and proposals. The PAB provides a key role in the development of the Public Health Research programme and works in a multi-disciplinary way.

Background

The role of the NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) programme is to provide new knowledge on the benefits, cost-effectiveness, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health in the United Kingdom.

This will be achieved through the assessment of the public health importance of outline proposals received through the programme's responsive workstream, and of topic briefs suggested through the programme's commissioning workstream. The aim of these assessments is to create an optimal programme of work for the NIHR Public Health Research programme, for which research can be selected for funding by the programme's Research Funding Board.

- *Responsive worksteam:* Applicants can submit outline proposals at any time during the year, with three cut-off dates when applications will be considered by the Programme Advisory Board.
- *Commissioned workstream:* Applicants will be asked to submit proposals responding to specific research questions which have been prioritised by the Programme Advisory Board.

What is involved?

The PAB meets three times a year. A typical meeting will consist of the following parts:

- Strategic discussion of the programme's objectives and direction.
- Discussion and assessment of a number of topic briefs from the commissioning workstream.
- Discussion and assessment of a number of anonymised proposal extracts from the responsive workstream.

Current PAB members include Chief Executives of national charities, PCT Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health, Chief Executives of public health bodies such as the UK Public Health Association and University Academic Heads of Schools. For a full list of PAB members visit http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/boards/

PAB members are asked to read and form opinions of the commissioned streams topic briefs and the responsive streams anonymised extracts in advance of Board meetings.

How does the Programme Advisory Board fit into the Public Health Research programme?

In addition to the PAB, the PHR programme has a Research Funding Board (RFB). The role of the RFB is to advise the Programme Director on the selection of applications for funding; specifically through advising on the scientific quality, feasibility and value for money aspects of the proposals submitted to the programme through the responsive and commissioned workstreams.

The Public Health Research programme is managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC), part of Wessex Institute at the University of Southampton. NETSCC staff provide administrative and scientific support for the programme's activities, including those of the PAB.