

Health Improvement: roles and responsibilities for the radiography workforce

14 November 2013

At the end of the one day conference on Health Improvement held in London on 14th November, the delegates were asked to identify what they were going to do differently as a result of the day. Given below is a summary of responses from 6 of the delegates:

- 1. I am going to talk to my students about health promotion in radiography and how they can do it*
- 2. I will undertake a questionnaire to practising therapeutic radiographers of different grades to find out the barriers to providing information. This will then provide some interesting findings to allow further work in this area.*
- 3. I will be doing a presentation to my colleagues to discuss what I learnt and how we can improve our practice and extend our responsibilities as radiographers. I will also get in touch with the stop smoking scheme and get some posters to put up in the department to show that we are actively pursuing a healthier workplace.*
- 4. As a lecturer and programme leader I realise how important it is to inspire professionalism and good practice in our students from the beginning of their journey and I have, in my Professional Practice module for first years, already included a Health Promotion perspective. However, from the day I have a few new angles to approach it from.*
- 5. I will look out for opportunities to give health improvement advice, to obtain cards to hand out about smoking cessation, I will look at ways in which I can make my colleagues aware of our responsibility and I will look at the different ways we could promote health improvement in our radiotherapy department eg posters and leaflets, including it in first day chats, reviews, assessments etc*
- 6. The first thing I intend to do is be more proactive in advising patients in my work setting on the lifestyle changes they could make, when appropriate. I was especially impressed with the 30 second smoking intervention. As I work in a cardio thoracic unit this advice was highly relevant. Secondly I have approached the relevant departments in my hospital in order to put together some patient information notice boards for the x-ray waiting room. We have a dearth of information here and as we have a captive audience this may be too good an opportunity to miss. Thirdly I am taking a summary of the day, with the ideas and information you gave us and presenting it to our Band 6 radiographers on their training day. Lastly, I will make enquiries about becoming a counsellor for stop smoking clinics.*

There are plenty of ways a radiographer can make a difference to improving the health of the nation.