

Community  
Nutrition  
Group



# Community Nutrition Group and Public Health

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The Community Nutrition Group is a Specialist Interest Group of the British Dietetic Association





# Community Nutrition Group

- Specialist interest group BDA in 1974
- Established to meet the needs of BDA members who worked outside the *traditional* - Industry, social service and public health
- *Community work* – meant any dietetic practice not in acute hospital setting



# Community Nutrition Group

- 227 BDA member
- Significant number working all or part of the time in Public health
- Study in 2000 of BDA members >50% felt that role of dietitians working in public health should be developed



It is estimated that 60% of premature deaths in Britain are due to non-communicable diseases including coronary heart disease and cancer



“Diet and nutrition are important factors in the promotion and maintenance of good health throughout the entire life course. Their role as determinants of chronic non-communicable diseases is well established and they therefore occupy a prominent position in prevention activities”

*(Reducing Risks, Promoting Healthy Life, WHO 2002).*

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# What is Public Health?

The Most common definition of public health is:

"the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society"

*1988 Sir Donald Acheson*



# Drivers

- Diet related inequalities in health
  - Those living on low income have poorer diets and higher rates of diet related disease.
- Policy documents
  - Choosing Health
- Media
  - Turkey Twizzlers!



# What is CNG doing to support members working in public health

- Conferences
- Website
- Networks
- Travel award
- Education strategy
- Consultations
- Collaborations with
  - other BDA SIGs
  - Nutrition Society and Faculty of Public health

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# Faculty of Public Health Voluntary register

- Faculty of Public Health Voluntary registration (with Nut Soc)
  - Defined specialists registration
    - Health promotion
    - Public health pharmacy
    - Health intelligence
    - Academic public health
    - Health psychology
    - Health protection
    - **Public health nutrition**
    - Health economists
    - Environmental health



# Defined Specialists in Public Health

- Protection of the public
- Recognises multi disciplinary PH workforce
- Working at Senior levels
- Specialists in defined groups will have equivalent standing to generalist!!
- Registration by Retrospective portfolio
- Core and non core competencies
  - Knows how
  - Shows how



# Timescales

- registration for defined specialists open from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2006
- open for 3 years ‘in the first instance’
- current framework in place for 3 years, then likely to change
- Web sites:

[www.publichealthregister.org.uk](http://www.publichealthregister.org.uk)

[www.publichealthdevelopment.org.uk](http://www.publichealthdevelopment.org.uk)



# Defined Specialists in Public Health

- What does it mean for CNG members and other BDA members?
- How can we support those who
  - Want to put together portfolios?
  - Aspire to these roles?
- Want to know more?
  - Information on BDA and CNG websites





# Dietitians working in public health

- **Health promotion**
- **School meals work**
- **Policy development**
- **Community development**
- **Public health research**

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# Challenges to Dietitians working in Public Health

- Using skills in different ways
- Developing new skills
- New areas of work
- New Teams
- New settings
- New Partners