

Unit 11: The Role of Public Health in Health and Social Care

Unit code: H/601/1604

QCF level: 4

Credit value: 15

- **Aim**

The aim of this unit is to raise learners' awareness of factors influencing public health and the different approaches taken to reduce incidence of disease and illness in communities.

- **Unit abstract**

The unit requires learners to investigate the roles of different agencies working within communities to reduce the incidence of disease and illness. They will investigate infectious and non-infectious diseases that are widespread in their own country and analyse the effectiveness of strategies that are in place to control the incidence of disease. Regional, national and international perspectives and priorities will be considered. This will be followed by investigating the health and social care provision that is available and then analysing factors that influence the wellbeing of individuals within a care setting.

- **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit a learner will:

- 1 Understand different approaches and strategies used to measure, monitor and control the incidence of disease in communities
- 2 Be able to investigate the implications of illness and disease in communities for the provision of health and social care services
- 3 Understand the factors influencing the health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings.

Unit content

1 Understand different approaches and strategies used to measure, monitor and control the incidence of disease in communities

Roles of different agencies: local, national, international agencies eg local authorities, health trusts, government, European Union, World Health Organization, voluntary organisations

Epidemiology: incidence (geographical distribution, incidence rates, trends); vulnerable groups; causes; spread and controls

Infectious disease: one of eg influenza, food/water borne infections, HIV/AIDS, a childhood illness, tuberculosis, MRSA

Non-infectious disease: one of eg malignant disease, cardiovascular diseases obesity, asthma

Statistical data: graphical, numerical, tabular; probabilities, incidence rates, trends

Approaches and strategies: surveillance, screening, immunisation, education, legislation, social welfare, environmental controls

2 Be able to investigate the implications of illness and disease in communities for the provision of health and social care services

Priorities and approaches: prevention, treatment, palliative care, remedial care

Relationship: planning, facilities, expertise, partnership working, funding, individual versus public good

Lifestyle choices: diet, exercise, substance use, work culture, relaxation

3 Understand the factors influencing health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings

Priorities: factors eg safety and security, mobility, diet, hygiene, intellectual, social, emotional needs

Strategies, systems and policies: organisation of service provision, quality of provision, choices, complaints policies, partnerships, involvement of friends and family

Activity to encourage behaviour change: education, physical exercise, games, consultation exercises (eg focus group), input from specialists

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcomes On successful completion of this unit a learner will:	Assessment criteria for pass The learner can:
LO1 Understand different approaches and strategies used to measure, monitor and control the incidence of disease in communities	1.1 explain the roles of different agencies in identifying levels of health and disease in communities 1.2 explain, using statistical data, the epidemiology of one infectious and one non-infectious disease that is widespread in their own country 1.3 evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches and strategies to control the incidence of disease in communities
LO2 Be able to investigate the implications of illness and disease in communities for the provision of health and social care services	2.1 use relevant research to determine current priorities and approaches to the provision of services for people with disease or illness 2.2 explain the relationship between the prevalence of disease and requirements of services to support individuals within the health and social care service provision 2.3 analyse the impact of current lifestyle choices on future needs for health and social care services
LO3 Understand the factors influencing health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings.	3.1 assess the health and wellbeing priorities for individuals in a particular health or social care setting 3.2 evaluate the effectiveness of strategies, systems and policies in a health or social care setting 3.3 discuss changes that could be made to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals in a health or social care setting 3.4 evaluate an activity that has been implemented to encourage behaviour change for maximising health for individuals in a health or social care setting.

Links

This unit has links with, for example:

- *Unit 15: Psychology for Health and Social Care*
- *Unit 16: Understanding Specific Needs in Health and Social Care*
- *Unit 18: Complementary Therapies*
- *Unit 19: Contemporary Issues in Health and Social Care*
- *Unit 23: Employability Skills*
- *Unit 28: Work-based Experience.*

This unit also has links with the National Occupational Standards in Health and Social Care. See *Annexe B* for mapping.

Essential requirements

This unit will require input from health-related professionals with understanding and experience of health promotion, epidemiology and related work.

Employer engagement and vocational contexts

Input from specialists in public and environmental health would be beneficial. Access to local health plans and records would be useful as well as access to national and international statistics on the incidence of diseases and disorders.

Learners could also have access to work experience which would enhance their experience and access to information required for this unit.