Further Education

What?

Informed by an evidence review and in response to a groundswell of interest and activity within the further education sector, the National Healthy Further Education Framework was established in 2008, as a sector-led programme aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of those who study and work in the FE sector – championed by the Department of Health in partnership with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The Framework represents “an aspirational model aimed at creating a future where FE and skills sector providers have strong relationships with community partners to create a learning environment where positive wellbeing is the expectation for all, producing students and staff who are confident, healthy, safe, emotionally resilient and personally fulfilled.”

The Coalition Government’s Public Health Strategy for England, Healthy Lives, Healthy People, endorses the Framework, which is now led and supported by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) will be leading the Healthy FE Framework (HFE). It stated that:

“The Healthy Schools, Healthy Further Education and Healthy Universities programmes will continue to be developed by their respective sectors, as voluntary programmes, collaborating where appropriate and exploring partnership working with business and voluntary bodies.” (Para. 3.15, p.34).
Why?

- As institutions concerned with quality, inclusion and excellence, further education institutions can invest in the health of their staff and students. In doing this, they invest in the overall health of the organisation.
- As large institutional settings where students and staff spend a lot of time, colleges offer the opportunity to develop life skills and health awareness among an increasingly diverse population. They can also build health into their organisational culture, creating supportive working and living environments.
- As creative centres of learning, innovation and development, further education institutions offer the opportunity to:
  - educate and influence the next generation of decision-makers and managers
  - build a multi-disciplinary understanding of public health within and across subject areas
  - advocate for health at regional, national and international levels.
- As major local and regional institutions, colleges can contribute to the health and wellbeing of the wider population, and can mediate for healthy public policy.

How?

The Framework offers a self-review tool with questions across six key areas:

- governance
- participation
- health service provision
- facilities
- communication and information
- Personal and social development.

In addition, there are regional networks and FE institutions can seek formal recognition of their strategic and operational commitment to the Healthy FE process.

Links

Healthy Further Education Programme

Resources

A Health Promoting College for 16-19 year Old Learners (by Kathryn James, NIACE)

Healthy and Health Promoting Colleges – An Evidence Base (by Ian Warwick, June Statham and Peter Aggleton)

Contacts

http://www.healthyfe.org.uk/contact