Housing LIN 22 January 2019

Exhibition – New College Durham

The students who are presenting their work are completing the second year of the Foundation Degree in Housing and Communities at New College Durham. They are all employed and many juggle work with parenting and/or caring responsibilities as well as college homework and assignments. They work for housing organisations and local authorities in the North East of England including: Gentoo Group, thirteen, Durham County Council, South Tyneside Homes, Karbon and Bernicia.

They have worked diligently to prepare the displays for the exhibition at the North East Region Housing LIN/ADASS meeting and to also fulfil the assignment requirements of a module within the Foundation Degree called “*Planning and Developing Healthy and Sustainable Communities*”. This module has been designed to take into consideration the integration of housing, health and social care when planning for, and developing housing. The students have been tasked with identifying a health issue which they feel could be addressed through integration. The assignment specifically assesses the following objectives:

1. Explain and apply the strategic, financial and policy framework for housing planning and development at national through to local levels in terms of both the physical and social context of estates.
2. Analyse the key components and stages of the construction and development process.
3. Critically assess and apply the concepts and principles of sustainable development and sustainable communities to planning and development.
4. Evaluate the importance of health and housing integration and the role of stakeholders/ partnership working in the planning, development and regeneration of healthy and sustainable communities.

Some of the health related issues that the students have considered are mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, obesity, delayed discharges, dementia and housing for the ageing population. They have produced an exhibition stand that will demonstrate how housing can contribute to addressing these issues. Their work also links closely to the document - Improving Health and Care through the Home: A National Memorandum of Understanding, in particular:

“*Promote the adaption of existing homes and the building of new accessible housing with support which is environmentally sustainable and resilient to future climate change and changing needs and aspirations”*

And through completion of the module they:

“*…are confident and skilled in understanding the relationship between where people live and their health and wellbeing, and are able to identify suitable solutions to improve outcomes* (MOU, 2018, p.4).

I hope you find the exhibition interesting and enjoy meeting the students who are very much looking forward to the event.

Penny Patterson

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