

What do Public Health leaders think?

“The value of the public health practitioner workforce enables us to develop a flexible and agile workforce of the future through developing a broader skill mix that will us to meet the needs of the 21st century public health challenges”

Dr Helen Carter
*Deputy Director
for Healthcare
Public Health
and Workforce,
Public Health
England – West
Midlands*

Em Rahman
*Head of Public
Health Workforce
Development
Programmes,
Health Education
England - Wessex*

“For me the value of a professional public health practitioner workforce allows for the explicit demonstration of a workforce that is competent to formally practice public health in delivering positive outcomes for populations”

“Public health practitioners are instrumental in delivering public health and are an essential element of the entire workforce. Recognising and using UKPHR registration to show this value is also essential, especially as the value of public health as a whole can often be confused within the variety of public health teams across local authorities and other employers”

Nick McKenzie
*Membership
Officer, Faculty
of Public Health*

Across the UK, many thousands of practitioners work on sensitive and sometimes deeply personal issues related to protecting and enhancing people’s health.

Some practitioners deliver direct services such as alcohol harm reduction, sexual health and stop smoking programmes, working in hospitals, communities or voluntary sector settings. Others are involved in managing health information or in commissioning and monitoring contracts for public health services. The work is varied, demanding and vitally important.

Protecting the public

We need to know that our practitioners are safe and effective in what they do, so in 2010 UKPHR approved a route for practitioners to demonstrate their ability to deliver these crucial services. Practitioners develop a portfolio to demonstrate their competence against twelve standards of public health practice. UKPHR has registered hundreds of practitioners to date.

The regulatory framework developed by UKPHR protects the public and supports employers, providing quality control of the workforce to common and agreed standards.



Public Health practitioners in the UK



L-R Tom White, Angela Ellins, Claire Cotter, Gemma Cox and Valerie Cross

Who are our Public Health Practitioners?

Public health practitioners focus on the three pillars of public health:

- **Health improvement**
- **Health protection**
- **Improving healthcare services**

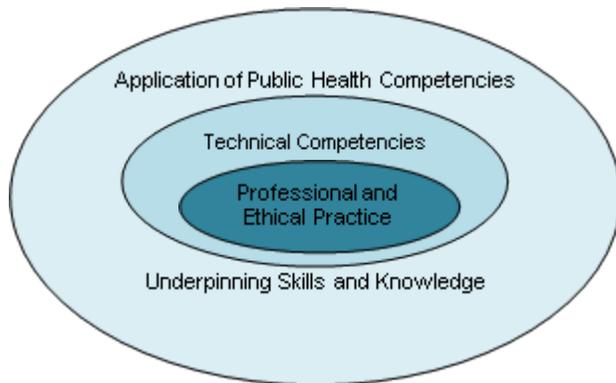
UK Public Health Register
Suite 18c, McLaren Building
46 Priory Queensway
Birmingham B4 7LR

For more information see:
www.ukphr.org

The UKPHR Registration Process

Practitioners undergo a rigorous process of assessment and verification by trained public health professionals competence is judged by measurement against 12 UKPHR defined standards, which cover:

- **Professional and ethical practice (standards 1-4)**
- **Technical competences in public health (standards 5-8)**
- **Application of technical competences to practice in their own field of work (standard 9)**
- **Underpinning skills and knowledge (standards 10-12)**



What do Employers think?

Practitioner registration will become a critical requirement for employers and the public. Some employers recruiting new staff are already requiring them to be registered or working towards registration. The value to employers and managers is clear.

Registration signals to the employer that the practitioner is competent and fully understands the essentials of the public health role.

It enables an employer to report a practitioner who breaches UKPHR's standards and code of conduct with confidence that appropriate action will be taken.

What is the value of the public health practitioner professional workforce?
"It will be the engine for modern public health practice if it includes the right skills"

Paul Southon
Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager,
Sandwell MBC

"A professional workforce of safe and competent practitioners, with a guaranteed level of knowledge, and who understand how to apply this to improving the health of the population across diverse areas of practice"

Adrian Phillips
Director of Public Health,
Birmingham City Council

Benefits for the Public and Practitioners

For the public, registration assures competence, integrity and accountability in public health practice. Practitioners can demonstrate their achievements to employers – and expand their portfolio to chart their career development

"Competence-assured public health practitioners help cut demand for NHS services by preventing ill-health, managing long-term conditions in the community and reducing inequalities. They help public health employers and commissioners of public health services with their due diligence in assessing a quality workforce"

Jess Mookherjee
Consultant in Public Health,
Kent County Council

Kate O'Hara
Wellbeing Project Manager,
Sandwell Council

"I believe to have a registered public health practitioner workforce, values professional practice which is quality assured and delivered by competent, confident and committed people who can clearly demonstrate their knowledge and skills, showing their added value now and in the future, wherever they may be working and in whatever context"

UKPHR
Public Health Register
Protecting the public – improving practice

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