

## 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)

## 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.

### **Julie Nelson, Public Health Lead, Public Health Surrey County Council**

*Completing my public health practitioner portfolio provided me with an excellent opportunity to reflect on my public health practice, what I have learnt, what I have accomplished and areas where I need to enhance my knowledge and skills through further learning and experience.*

### **Public Health Practitioner, Wales**

*Doing it helps your own self-worth. More so than a manager giving you feedback – it means so much more when you see it yourself.*

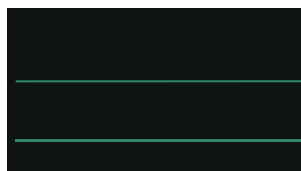
### **Kate O'Hara, Independent Public Mental Health Practitioner**

*Being peer assessed through a rigorous process and now being registered on the UKPHR has given me confidence and evidence of my public health proficiency and competence for my current and future employment.*

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For more information see:

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



# Public health practitioners in the UK

## WHO ARE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS?

*Public health practitioners focus on health improvement, health protection and improving services – the three pillars of public health. Across the UK, many thousands of them 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.

# UKPHR

*Public Health Register*

Protecting the public – improving practice

## PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

We need to know that our practitioners are safe and effective in what they do, so in 2010 UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) approved a route for practitioners to demonstrate their ability to deliver these crucial services. Practitioners develop a portfolio that demonstrates their competence against twelve standards of public health practice. 100 practitioners were registered by Autumn 2013, with around 300 more building their portfolios.

The regulatory framework developed by UKPHR protects the public and supports employers by providing quality assurance and quality control of the workforce to common and agreed standards. The register of practitioners is open for public scrutiny.



## WHAT DO PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS THINK?

**Tim Baxter, Head of Public Health Policy and Strategy Unit, Department of Health for England:**

*The practitioner registration scheme can help to give employers confidence that people from different backgrounds have a level of competence in public health that will help deliver the public health outcomes framework.*

**Rashmi Shukla, Workforce Development Lead Public Health England:**

*Voluntary registration of practitioners will play an important role in the development of the public health workforce. Practitioners will be able to show that they have the skills to support local authorities to deliver health improvements in the health of their populations.*

**Bob Hudson, Chief Executive, Public Health Wales:**

*The cost of us getting things wrong is very significant. In the wake of the Francis Report the climate has changed around the need for people to demonstrate that they work to appropriate standards. Over time I would be expecting us to be increasingly wanting people who are registered with the UKPHR.*

**Shirley Cramer, CBE Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health:**

*Being on the voluntary register will confirm their competency in public health, increase their employment prospects, mark them as a skilled member of the public health workforce, support their career and increase their confidence. That is an unbeatable combination.*

## 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



**Councillor Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council**

*At Kent County Council it is our duty to protect the public, and employing and commissioning registered practitioners will help us to do that.*

**Consultant in Public Health, West Midlands**

*The advantage for an employing organisation is that in recruitment it is a great risk mitigation... it reduces the risk by presenting evidence that they are appointable.*

**Cynthia Lyons, Acting Director of Public Health East Sussex County Council**

*As well as protecting the public, registration benefits employers by providing assurance of conduct and competence to common and agreed standards.*

**Consultant in Public Health, Wales**

*Registration would tell me they are definitely committed to public health. It tells you about applying the knowledge in practice, it indicates breadth of competence and quality assures practitioners.*

**Sally-Ann Ironmonger, Head of Health Improvement, Medway Council**

*I now use the practitioner registration competency framework as a core element of our staff training – and all of the health improvement team are expected to be working towards becoming a registered practitioner.*

**Director of Public Health, West Midlands**

*It indicates a greater range of skills, the ability to get involved in planning, to address public realm issues, to adopt a positive empowering population model.*