

THE EAST OF ENGLAND UKPHR PRACTITIONER SCHEME BULLETIN

East of England Scheme News

There are several aspects to our regional scheme

- **Supporting practitioners to develop portfolios to gain registration**
- **Providing a CPD programme aligned with the UKPHR standards to develop the whole workforce**
- **Developing opportunities for registrars to support the scheme, while meeting their own curriculum requirements**
- **Building a network of assessors and verifiers from the senior public health workforce to support the assessment of portfolios**



HEE commissions UKPHR registered Alix Sheppard (Health Talks Ltd) to coordinate and develop the regional programme of support for the EofE scheme.

There are 26 people developing portfolios on formal cohorts in the East of England region and a further 45 who are preparing for application by self assessing against the UKPHR standards and completing CPD to ensure the theoretical knowledge aspect of their development is up to date.

Congratulations to Ruth Dean (Central Beds Council), and Shanelle Akintomide (formally Luton Borough Council) on gaining UKPHR registration since October 2022!



The post-Covid era has proven a challenge, with more people than ever applying to join the scheme to gain registration. The main limit to the number of practitioners we can support is based on the number of assessors and verifiers we can recruit.

Employers are invited to nominate senior staff who may be interested in these roles which contribute to CPD and develop essential skills for the senior workforce. See page 5 for a description of these roles.

Registrars are also invited to support the development of others with 3 new opportunities– each aligned with the FPH Public Health curriculum.

1. *Becoming a trained assessor*
2. *Delivering bite sized training sessions on PH theory*
3. *Mentoring practitioners as they develop portfolios*

Full training and support is provided for these roles.

Please feel free to contact Alix Sheppard for information about any aspect of the East of England scheme
alix@healthtalks.org.uk

Assessor Profile

Name: Elozona Umeh

Job: Health and Wellbeing Lead, OHID, DHSC

What do you enjoy about the UKPHR assessor role?

It is interesting to read the breath of work that aligns to Public Health practice and the wider determinants of Health. Assessing practitioner portfolios broadens my understanding of the scope of how public health knowledge and skills are applied, implemented and interpreted by practitioners within their areas of work.



It has been of benefit to equally contribute to the development of the public health workforce across the regions I currently assess for. It gives me the satisfaction that I am giving my time in a voluntary capacity for the benefit of PH workforce development which has been and continues to be a challenge. Its an avenue to meet other assessors who are equally very grounded experts in their PH area , I equally use it as a means of networking. As PH is big on outcomes, I enjoy seeing the email from the Scheme Coordinator once a practitioner is recommended for registration, such a great feeling of fulfilment and motivation that I have contributed to some workforce development!

How does it improve your own professional skills?

I am currently preparing to apply for the UKPHR Specialist Portfolio Route. The assessor log generated after assessing each practitioner is used to demonstrate application of some of the show-how competences required for submission. While reading the vast range of PH work, I gain further in-depth knowledge and skills in assessing and understanding other areas of work that I haven't been privileged to work in. For example, I recently assessed an environmental health piece of work as it links to PH.

Assessor Profile

Name: Juliet King

Job title/organisation: Environmental Health Practitioner and Lead Primary Authority Officer – South Cambridgeshire District Council

What do you enjoy about the UKPHR assessor role?

I enjoy being an assessor for many reasons, the flexibility, meeting new people from the different realms of Public Health, learning about what they do and their involvement in protecting the public, and expanding my own knowledge. I also enjoy seeing a practitioner develop and excel. I find this highly rewarding for the practitioner and for myself knowing that I've contributed to their success and knowing the impact that they will make to the profession.



How does it improve your own professional skills?

Being an assessor continually improves your practice by expanding your knowledge and technical expertise and curiosity. It helps develop your analytical skills to evaluate the bigger picture and the use of evidence. Being an assessor certainly provides a sense of reflection, order and fairness to improving your overall leadership skills

What are the challenges?

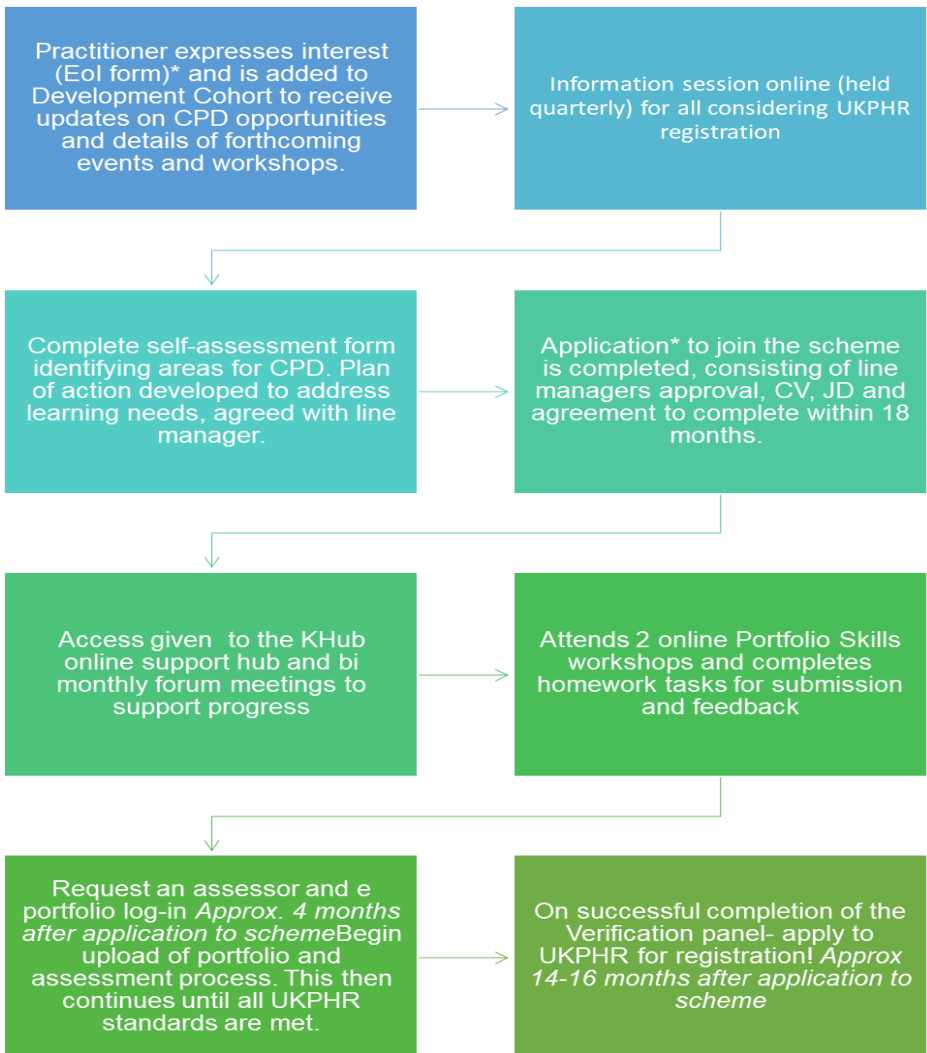
In technical terms, being an assessor challenges your way of thinking and really broadens your thought and understanding process

But there's no real 'challenges' to being an assessor, its just about being genuinely interested and dedicated to Public Health and setting aside a small amount of time when needed

Would you recommend the role?

I would wholeheartedly recommend the role of becoming a UKPHR assessor, It enables you to make a significant contribution to the sector and is essential to an existing practitioner and future practitioners development.

Practitioner pathway to UKPHR registration in the East of England region



A practitioner can begin developing a portfolio at any point in their career– but to be eligible to join a scheme, MUST have at least 2 years of practice at autonomous level.

Most practitioners are already working in roles with the following characteristics; Programme Managers, Senior Project leads, Heads of services.

The portfolio process develops reflective practice skills and enables retrospective application of theory to practice.

To express interest in joining the scheme to gain registration or enquire about CPD opportunities, the first step is to complete the Eol here <https://forms.office.com/r/ZT8KkqjY72>

Practitioners will then be invited to an Information Session, where we will introduce the portfolio requirements, scheme support and application information.

Some practitioners identify that more CPD is needed prior to application, and they join our Development Cohort for up to one year before applying to join a formal cohort.

UKPHR
Public Health Register
Protecting the public | improving practice

Becoming a registered practitioner takes up to 2 years and is the gold standard for public health practice, and an essential step in career development.

For information on the East of England Scheme click [here](#)

Ensuring quality in the UKPHR Portfolio process

In a devolved registration process, ensuring robust QA processes are in place, is essential to maintain the integrity of UKPHR practitioner registration.

Each regional scheme has the key roles of practitioners, assessors and verifiers which are overseen by a UKPHR Moderator and in the East of England, Dr Irfan Ghani has been appointed by UKPHR to undertake this vital role.

The Moderator has a key role in terms of quality assurance of the Practitioner scheme and ensuring that the assessors and verifiers' assessments of portfolios are robust, valid, appropriate, objective, consistent and fair. They train future verifiers and assessors, making sure that all the relevant guidance on the standards for registration are clear, updated and supportive for practitioners as they start their journey to registration.



UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA Knowledge and Library Services support to local authority public health teams

UKHSA has extended its support to local authority public health teams to now offer an integrated knowledge and evidence service free at the point of use. This includes:

- Literature searching and information retrieval on public health topics
- Enquiry services, including OpenAthens queries
- Access to e-journals and [BrowZine](#)
- Access to [EBSCO Discovery](#) (a bespoke evidence search tool)
- Information skills training, including finding the evidence, critical appraisal and reference management

In addition, all local authority public health teams have access to a regional UKHSA Knowledge and Evidence Specialist (KES), who can: answer your queries, undertake literature searches and provide information skills training to you and your team.

In the East of England your KES is [Helen Medley](#)

Health Education England and local NHS support

Some local authorities have arrangements in place for their public health staff to use NHS library services for literature searches, training and document supply.

[Find your local service](#) to explore more or discuss options for arranging access.

Support for OHID and NHSEI Public Health staff

We are pleased to announce that UKHSA Knowledge and Library Services will continue to provide access to resources and professional library services to our public health colleagues in OHID and NHSEI, on a rolling annual agreement for the next three years.

Please note that this is not just for ex-PHE staff but includes those who have joined OHID from DHSC, or have been appointed from 1 October 2021 onwards, as well as all staff within public health teams in NHSE/I.

Current awareness bulletins provided to public health colleagues outside of UKHSA are currently available to view on our [current awareness page](#)

Assessors and Verifiers

Some elements of delivery are better at scale– and we have linked with the North West and Midlands schemes to bring together our networks of assessors and verifiers, sharing learning and creating a “Community of Practice” via our KHub platform [Home - UKPHR Assessors and Verifiers - Knowledge Hub \(khub.net\)](#)

The only limit on the number of practitioners a regional scheme can support– is the number of assessors and verifiers we can recruit.

These are voluntary roles, carried out by senior members of the workforce and are detailed below.

For both roles above, full training is provided by UKPHR, everything is online and the time commitment is both flexible and contributes to your own CPD.

See [here](#) for a short video describing the assessor role.

See [here](#) for an article by Dr Patrick Saunders FRCP, FFPH highlighting the verifier role



Assessor Role	Verifier Role
<p>Eligibility:</p> <p>Senior autonomous workforce member for 2+ years</p> <p>Previous exp in assessment desirable but full training provided</p> <p>Duties:</p> <p>To assess portfolio submissions for practitioners</p>	<p>Eligibility:</p> <p>Consultant in PH</p> <p>Retired Consultants</p> <p>Duties:</p> <p>To oversee the assessment process in bi-yearly verification panel meetings.</p>

Benefits of becoming an assessor/verifier

- *Contribute to the development of public health careers for individuals- and your own*
- *Support the professionalisation of public health practitioners*
- *UKPHR certificated training and appraisal that can contribute to your own CPD – ‘trained to assess’*
- *Enhances your understanding of how the full range and scope of public health knowledge and skills are applied to the implementation of public health interventions by practitioners*
- *Broadens your appreciation of public health agendas, policies, roles, services and interventions in other areas*
- *Develops a sound grasp of retrospective portfolio building which could help with own future portfolio development*

Hear from UKPHR Practitioner Thurza Graham on her journey to registration

[UKPHR Thurza Graham - YouTube](#)

Please click [here](#) to apply or email for more information