



Yorkshire & Humber Public Health Practitioner Workforce Development Programme Introduction

Yorkshire and the Humber launched a Practitioner Development Programme in 2019. Practitioner Development Programmes/Schemes have been already successfully launched in 10 areas of the Country and have been well received.

What is the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Practitioner Workforce Development Programme?

- ❑ **A programme of structured support designed to enable registration with the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR).** The UKPHR is the regulator for public health professionals in the United Kingdom, providing professional regulation to public health specialists and public health practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom have a common core of knowledge and skills;
- ❑ **A Core Public Health Workforce Development Training Programme for Public Health workers in Yorkshire & the Humber.** The training provided is focused on the development of core technical public health skills coupled with system leadership, interpersonal skills and resilience development. Training sessions also support those embarking on the UKPHR registration scheme;
- ❑ **Foundation in Public Health Programmes,** piloted in Barnsley in 2021 and designed in response to the need to increase Public Health skills in the healthcare sector and awareness of inequalities in health; and
- ❑ **Bespoke Public Health training Programmes on commission,** for example, training opportunities for Bradford Council staff to increase core PH skills training in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UKPHR is the regulator for public health professionals in the United Kingdom, providing professional regulation to public health specialists and public health practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom have a common core of knowledge and skills.

Benefits of UKPHR registration include:

- ❑ A systematic structure and process of quality assurance for the practitioner workforce, providing clear professional identification
- ❑ Increased *public* and *employer* confidence in the work of practitioners, and Increased confidence for practitioners themselves
- ❑ The attainment of core standards demonstrating safe and competent practice
- ❑ Recognises achievement, success and ongoing development; Encourages reflective practice and demonstrates commitment
- ❑ Promotes the valuing and recognition of a 'hidden' workforce who contribute significantly to the public health agenda



Once registered, practitioners may also register with the Faculty of Public Health which provides individuals with the chance:

- ☐ to expand beneficial career networks and influence the decision making which will affect their present and future professional lives
- ☐ to contribute towards the setting and maintenance of standards in their profession

Who are Public Health Practitioners?

Public Health Practitioners are key members of the public health workforce who can have a great influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations. Working across the full breadth of public health from health improvement and health protection, to health information, community development and nutrition, in a wide range of settings from the NHS and local government to the voluntary and private sectors.

Practitioners must be working at level 5 (the level of autonomous practice) or above on the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF), but below specialist/consultant level, for a minimum of two years to be considered.

More Information:

The Yorkshire and Humber programme launched in Spring 2019 recruiting practitioners from around the region for a programme of structure support for registration. The programme also offers an open access Workforce Development programme which is available to all Practitioners within the region.

It should take practitioners no more than 24 months to obtain full registration therefore we are likely to select people with minimal gaps based upon their application. The programme is open for application and selection via a self-assessment and application form. Successful practitioners will develop an evidence based portfolio to demonstrate competence across 4 areas of practice:

1. **Professional and ethical practice** – Practising professionally, ethically and legally.
2. **Technical** – Using Public Health information to measure, monitor and manage population health and wellbeing.
3. **Context** – Implementing public health policy and strategy and collaborating across agencies and boundaries to deliver the public health function.
4. **Delivery** – Designing, managing and evaluating public health programmes and projects, and communicating with others to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

Findings from independent evaluation suggest that the processes involved in practitioner registration are valued by practitioners, assessors, verifiers and importantly, managers and employers.

To register an interest in the scheme (whether it be as a practitioner, an assessor or simply for more information), please contact us via the dedicated PH Practitioner Workforce Development Programme pages of the regional YHPHN website or contact the Public Health Practitioner Workforce Development Programme Coordinator, Y&H at PHPPYH@leeds.ac.uk .



Health Education England

Useful websites and further information:

Link to UKPHR Practitioner Standards: <https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/media/47012/ukphr-practitioner-standards.pdf>

UKPHR: <http://www.ukphr.org/i-want-to-apply-for-registration/practitioner/>

(Public Health Practitioners in the UK): http://www.ukphr.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/UKP_UKPHR-leaflet-printer-version-print-as-tablet.pdf

Health Careers: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-practitioner/public-health-practitioner>