**Assessor & Verifier Application Briefing Note**

The Yorkshire and the Humber (Y&H) Public Health Practitioner Registration Scheme will commence in April 2019. The application process for Assessors and Verifiers will commence on Friday 1st February and closes on Thursday 28th February 2019.

**What is the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR)?**

This is the regulator for Public Health Professionals in the UK, 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. The purpose of the registration scheme is to enable practitioners to demonstrate their competency and to then become registered with the UKPHR.

**Benefits of Practitioner Registration**

Professional registration with the UKPHR brings a wealth of benefits to the individual, their organisation and the communities they serve. These benefits include:

* A significant opportunity to become part of a quality assured public health workforce providing clear professional identification;
* The attainment of core standards required to demonstrate safe and competent practice;
* The ability to show current and prospective employers some assurance of the quality of practitioner work;
* Recognising the practitioner’s own commitment to their personal development, their achievements and success;
* Helping to identify and to address any ‘competency gaps’ in practitioner knowledge and experience following self-assessment against the UKPHR standards. This activity is supported by the Y&H Programme, Line Managers and employers to address these areas;
* Encouraging reflective practice and allowing practitioners to demonstrate commitment to their roles and professional practice;
* Promotion and recognition of a ‘hidden’ workforce who contribute significantly to the Public Health agenda.

**Who are Public Health Practitioners?**

Public Health Practitioners are key members of the Public Health workforce and can have a great influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations. They work across the full breadth of Public Health from Health Improvement and Health Protection, to Health Information, Community Development, in a wide range of settings from the NHS, Local Government, the Voluntary and Private sectors (who are commissioned to deliver Public Health Services). Practitioners must be working at level 5 (the level of autonomous practice) or above on the Skills for Health Knowledge Framework [(Link)](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/index.php?option=com_mtree&task=att_download&link_id=163&cf_id=24).

**More Information about the Y&H Practitioner Scheme for Assessors & Verifiers:**

The Y&H Public Health practitioner scheme will commence in April 2019. Cohort 1 of the new scheme will offer up to fifteen places for public health practitioners in the region to undergo a structured programme of support in order to achieve registration with the UKPHR. A Bradford pilot registration scheme launched in 2017, coordinated by Sally Ironmonger, and five public health practitioners achieved UKPHR registration via this local scheme. The Y&H scheme has recruited a few assessors, verifiers and mentors already who were associated with the Bradford scheme.

The exact cohort number for 2019/20 will be confirmed following conclusion of the practitioner recruitment process at the end of February 2019. The aim is to recruit at least as many assessors as practitioners to the scheme so each assessor may support one practitioner through a cycle of the scheme. Assessors may also wish to adopt a mentoring role for a different practitioner but that decision is at the discretion of the assessor and may be discussed with the Programme Co-ordinator separately.

**Assessor training and time commitment**

The UKPHR provide assessor training of 1.5 days in duration. Following training assessors will be allocateda practitioner by the Programme Co-ordinator and would then be required to assess three practitioner commentaries and supporting evidence over a twelve month period. It is understood that some practitioners may take more than twelve months to complete but the Y&H scheme is setting up the expectation of a twelve month submission period. The Programme Co-ordinator would support assessors through network support groups and these would be scheduled around commentary submission deadlines. (You will be advised of these dates in due course).

The time commitment for an assessor would be approximately 6 days annually:

* 1.5 days assessor training
* Commentary assessment, e-portfolio recording, practitioner feedback, and assessor support group = 1 day x 3 commentaries = 3 days
* Verification Panel = .5 day
* Optional mentoring Support (for a practitioner you’re not assessing directly) = 1 day

**Verifier training and time commitment**

The UKPHR provide verifier training of half a day in duration. The Y&H scheme hopes to recruit four people to this position. The verifier role is to verify applications that have been previously assessed; to be available to discuss assessments at a meeting of the verification panel; and to provide feedback and advice to assessors

The time commitment for a Verifier would be approximately 4 days annually:

* .5 days verifier training
* Sampling of completed portfolios = 2 days
* Attending Assessor & Verifier Support groups = 1 day
* Attending Verification panel = .5 day

The time commitments outlined here for assessors and verifiers are by no means prescriptive and assessors and verifiers may take more or less time to fulfil commitments. Both roles are unpaid.

For explicit details of the assessor and verifier role and requirements please refer to the UKPHR guidance document on the Y&H Application forms webpage.

**The UKPHR Practitioner standards are currently under review. The proposed new standards and guidance document, under consultation, can be found** [***here***](https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/public-health-practitioner-development-programme/)***.***

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

***If you wish to apply for the assessor or verifier role, please contact us via the*** [**Y&H**](http://www.champspublichealth.com) **webpages**[***https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/contact-us/***](https://www.yhphnetwork.co.uk/contact-us/) ***or contact Emma Mason, Public Health Practitioner Programme Co-ordinator for Y&H,*** ***e.mason@leeds.ac.uk*** ***or phone on 0113 343 5683 should you have any queries about the application process.***

Useful websites and further information:

**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/public-health-practitioner>