



# THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE WIDER PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

# Who are the Wider Public Health Workforce?



# What the wider public health workforce do

**ACCESS** HEALTH INEQUALITIES HEALTH PROTECTION  
INFLUENCING HEALTH PROMOTION  
EMERGENCY PLANNING POLICY DATA ANALYSIS  
WATER SAFETY  
MECC **EDUCATION/TEACHING**  
WORKFORCE POLICY/INFLUENCING FOOD SAFETY HYGIENE  
HOUSING SIGNPOSTING EVIDENCE GATHERING MENTAL HEALTH  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH** VACCINATIONS

# What support is needed?



**INCREASE  
RESOURCE AND  
FUNDING TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
SYSTEM**



**MORE SUPPORT FOR  
CAREER PROGRESSION  
BY OFFERING TRAINING  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**MORE RECOGNITION  
OF THE WIDER  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
WORKFORCE AT  
A NATIONAL/  
REGIONAL LEVEL**



**CREATING A NATIONALLY  
RECOGNISED CAREER  
PROGRESSION PATHWAY  
INTO SPECIALIST PUBLIC  
HEALTH ROLES**



**INCREASE  
SUPPORT FOR  
HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING**



**9/10**

**AGREE THAT COMMITTING TO A LONG-TERM PLAN TO PROVIDE BETTER SUPPORT TO THE WIDER PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE SHOULD BE A GOVERNMENT PRIORITY**

- 1. UK and devolved nation governments need to develop a cross-sector national strategy for the whole UK Public Health Workforce.**
- 2. The sector and relevant government departments need to think collectively and smartly about how to resource, upskill and empower the Wider Public Health Workforce to maximise their impact.**
- 3. The Wider Public Health Workforce need to be better recognised as contributing to public health and prevention.**
- 4. The Wider Public Health Workforce needs clearer routes into public health and ways to develop and be recognised for their expertise in public health.**

# What is our goal?

**Anyone working within the wider public health workforce should be able to be recognised as a person with public health skills.**

**They should understand the routes they have to develop their skill, competency, and career, and recognise the impact that they can have on public health and wellbeing.**

# How can we support?

- **Recognition of the wider public health workforce, within the public health sector and more widely, is a crucial first step to harnessing their skills and experience.**
- **Create visible routes into and along Public Health careers**
- **Training packages and qualifications that are transferrable and portable as people move through their career.**



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# What is next?

## **We will:**

1. Ongoing engagement with the sector to understand their challenges, with a focus on career progression, qualifications and recognition, and to work with them towards solutions.
2. Pilot modular pathways for the workforce. The aim being to create more visible routes into public health with an easily accessible pathway to develop skills and support career progression, creating transferable skills to allow transition between roles, settings and sectors.
3. Deliver scalable packages of educational products to support the development of the existing workforce.

# Stay up to date:

## Coming up in 2024/2025:

- Wider workforce consultation: education, training and career development
- Piloting of workforce training packages:
  - Sports and fitness
  - Core20Plus5 Connectors
- Piloting modular pathways for the workforce
  - Health Improvement - community health and wellbeing worker
  - Health Services – social care, staff health and wellbeing worker
  - Health Protection – pest control, emergency planning, infection control

**<https://www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/policy/wider-public-health-workforce/wider-public-health-education-pathways.html>**

# How to get in touch

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