

Example career routes and entry points for Public Health



Director of Public Health

[Directors of Public Health](#) hold a strategic leadership role and have responsibility for overseeing all public health functions within a defined geographical area. You could be from any background but you would need to be registered as a specialist in public health with the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR), General Medical Council (GMC) or General Dental Council (GDC).

Public Health Consultants, Specialists and Speciality Registrars

[Public health consultants](#) and specialists provide specialist advice and support to develop health policies and strategies. As a Consultant or Specialist, you may have a medical, dental or other background. To become a registered specialist, you could undertake a five-year specialty training programme as a specialty registrar. Having passed your examinations, completed your training, and registered as a specialist in public health you are eligible to apply for consultant posts. Alternatively, if you have spent some years gaining experience in different areas of public health within a senior role, you may apply for public health specialist registration with the UKPHR by submitting a portfolio detailing your experience, education and training.



Senior/Principal/Specialist Practitioner

[Public health practitioner](#) roles differ greatly in the work they focus on and in their specific job titles. As a Senior/Principal/Specialist Practitioner you will have higher experience and be established in public health practice. Usually educated at post graduate level (QAA Level 7). Professional backgrounds are typically the same as listed in the 'Public Health Practitioner' roles below but are likely to require elements of responsibility related to public health strategy, service management and/or specialist commissioning etc.

Public Health Practitioner

[Public health practitioner](#) roles differ in the work they focus on and in their specific job titles. Some practitioners are already a registered professional e.g. Environmental Health Officer, Public Health Nurse or Allied Health Professionals etc. Practitioners are usually educated to degree level (QAA level 6) with experience within a public health role or through a higher or degree level apprenticeship (see below). UK Practitioners can register through UKPHR as a public health professional through an assessed portfolio.



Public Health Practitioner Apprenticeships (*Trailblazer in development ETA 2019*)

Public health practitioner apprenticeships will provide a new entry or development route across the public health system. In common with many practitioner roles, the title of the apprenticeship may differ depending on the specific focus of the role. Experience will be gained within the workplace over the 3 year apprenticeship period. A degree (QAA level 6) will be completed as part of the apprenticeship standard.

Associate Practitioners/Assistant Practitioners

[Associate or Assistant practitioner](#) roles differ in the work they focus on and in their specific job titles. As an Associate/Assistant Practitioner you will usually require some minimal experience within a health related role or may this may be gained with a relevant vocational apprenticeship. Level 3/5 qualifications may be required based on the specified roles and responsibilities of the post.



Health Trainer/Wellbeing Worker

[As a health trainer](#) you will be knowledgeable about the health issues that affect the community you are working in. Typically a Health Trainer/Wellbeing Worker will go on to complete some recognised health improvement training at level 2 and complete at Level 3 qualification specifically for the role.

Youth Health Champion/Health Champion

Gaining experience through a [voluntary role](#) is a way to show that you are genuinely concerned about the health and wellbeing of others. Health champions and Youth Health champions (14 to 24 year olds) play a key role in promoting healthy living in local communities.



For more information about the roles detailed above including other important public health roles within Knowledge and Intelligence, Public Health Science and Public Health Academia can be found on the Health Careers website www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/publichealthroles