

**Association of the Directors of Public Health
Yorkshire and the Humber
&
Faculty of Public Health**

**2026 Practice Improvement
Conference Brochure**

**Wednesday 1 July 2026
The Hope Centre, Sheffield**

Conference Agenda

- 09.00** **Registration Opens**
- 09.30** **Welcome, Introduction and Setting the Scene “Public Health in a Political Environment”**
Louise Wallace, ADPH YH Network Chair & Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire
- 09.40** **Keynote Presentations**
Prof Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England
Robin Tuddenham, Chief Executive for Calderdale Council
Dr Ebere Okereke, Global Health Advisor to the Director General Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, Abu Dhabi
- 10.40** **Keynote Panel Q & A**
- 11.15** **Abstract Marketplace and Networking**
- 12.00** **Networking Lunch and Liz Butcher Award Lecture**
- | |
|--|
| Liz Butcher Award Lecture |
| <i>“From Sobriety to Connection: Building Recovery That Lasts”</i>
<i>Laura McDonough, Public Health Principal for North Lincolnshire</i>
(12.10 – 12.30) |
- 13.15** **Keynote Presentations**
Prof Tracy Daszkiewicz, President of the Faculty of Public Health
Kate Josephs, Chief Executive for Sheffield City Council
- 13.55** **Keynote Q & A**
- 14.30** *< make way to breakout sessions and comfort break >*
- 14.45** **Breakout Sessions**
- 15.45** *< return to main plenary hall >*
- 15.50** **Closing Comments**
Louise Wallace, ADPH YH Network Chair & Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire
- 16.00** **Conference close**

Keynote Speakers

Prof Chris Whitty

Chief Medical Officer for England



Professor Chris Whitty is Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England, the UK government's Chief Medical Adviser and head of the public health profession.

Chris is a practising NHS Consultant Physician at University College London Hospitals (UCLH) and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, and a visiting professor at Gresham College.

Chris is an epidemiologist and has undertaken research and worked as a doctor in the UK, Africa and Asia. He was Professor of Public and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) before becoming CMO and remains an honorary professor.

Chris was the interim Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) from December 2024 to June 2025. He was Chief Scientific Adviser for DHSC from January 2016 to August 2021, with overall responsibility for the department's research and development, including being head of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the government's major funder of clinical, public health, social care and translational research.

Chris was the interim Government Chief Scientific Adviser from 2017 to 2018, including during the Novichok poisonings. Before that, he was the Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for International Development (DFID), which included leading technical work on the West Africa Ebola outbreak and other international emergencies."

Tracey Daszkiewicz

President of the Faculty of Public Health



Professor Tracy Daszkiewicz is President of the Faculty of Public Health. She is an expert in public health who has worked in a variety of public health leadership roles across health, social care, community voluntary sectors and Civil Service.

Tracy's specialist areas are tackling inequalities, the humanitarian aspects of recovery following major incidents, safeguarding against vulnerability and building resilient communities. Tracy refers to herself as 'trying to tread gently on the planet' as she champions environmental factors and the need to protect biodiversity.

Professor Daszkiewicz is the Executive Director of Public Health & Strategic Partnerships at the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board covering Gwent, the South East region of Wales.

Tracy is a Visiting Professor at the University of West of England in the School of Health & Applied Sciences, where she also holds an Honorary Doctorate for her contribution to Public Health. She holds a second Doctorate with The Open University, she credits both these organisations with raising her. She lectures on Public Health and Emergency Planning at a number of universities.

Tracy is Trustee for a Domestic Abuse charity, and a Community Governor at a Primary School.

Robin Tuddenham

Chief Executive for Calderdale Council



Robin has been Chief Executive at Calderdale Council, in West Yorkshire, since June 2017 and Calderdale's Place Lead for West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board since July 2022. He is responsible for leading both the Council's and Calderdale place's workforce, supporting system leadership across the area with public, private and voluntary sector leaders in support of Calderdale Vision 2034 and overseeing a major regeneration programme across the borough's market towns.

Currently he is President of Solace (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) after being lead spokesperson for Solace for Economic Prosperity from 2020-24 and is Chair of West Yorkshire Chief Executives Group.

Robin was previously Director of Communities and Business Change for Calderdale, leading the redevelopment of the multi-award-winning restoration of the Piece Hall and new Central Library in Halifax and prior to that worked in local government, the Probation Service and the voluntary sector in East London. Robin is an honorary life member of the Faculty of Public Health, a Non-Executive Director of the Northern Housing Consortium and a Trustee of Belong.

Kate Josephs

Chief Executive for Sheffield City Council



Kate Josephs CB joined Sheffield City Council as Chief Executive in January 2021, following a 20-year career in national government in the UK and United States. She leads an organisation of over 8,000 staff, supporting Sheffield's political leadership to deliver for England's fourth largest city.

Since joining Sheffield, Kate has led a major programme of organisational improvement and renewal, strengthening the Council's focus on delivery, resident outcomes, partnership working and long-term strategic planning. She has championed a more ambitious, outward-facing agenda for the city, including the development of Sheffield's ten-year City Goals and the city's first inclusive Growth Plan, launched in 2024.

Kate has played a central role in securing Sheffield's position as a city of national significance for culture, investment and innovation. This has included work to secure the long-term future of the World Snooker Championship in Sheffield, support for major housing and city centre growth, and the development of a new investment prospectus to bring forward regeneration and inclusive economic growth.

She chairs Sheffield's Housing Growth Board and has helped build a strong strategic partnership with Homes England, supporting new models of delivery to unlock housing growth across the city. She has also driven Sheffield's public service reform agenda, including the Council's Test, Learn and Grow model, and work to develop Sheffield's role as one of the Government's Thematic Policy Campuses.

Before joining Sheffield, Kate held senior roles in HM Treasury, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, the Department for Education and the Cabinet Office COVID-19 Taskforce. She was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath in 2021 for exemplary public service.

Originally from Doncaster, Kate was educated at Oxford University and the London School of Economics, and lives in Sheffield with her husband and two children.

Dr Ebere Okereke

Global Health Advisor to the Director General at the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, Abu Dhabi



Dr. Ebere Okereke is a physician and global public health leader with over 30 years of experience shaping health strategy and partnerships across Africa, the UK, and global institutions.

She is currently Global Health Adviser to the Director General at the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity. She previously served as Chief Program Officer at Reaching the Last Mile and CEO of the Africa Public Health Foundation, and has held senior advisory roles with Africa CDC, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and Public Health England.

Her work focuses on health systems, health financing, health security, women's leadership, and African global health leadership. She is a mentor, speaker, and published author.

Breakout Sessions

There are five breakout sessions to choose from at this year's Practice Improvement Conference. Each session will run at the same time in the afternoon (between 2.45 pm and 3.45 pm).

When you booked your place at the conference on Eventbrite, you will have chosen your preferred breakout session and also a second choice. Please note that whilst we will try to allocate you to your most preferred session, we cannot guarantee this and it will be determined on a first-come-first-served basis according to the breakout room size.

Unlike previous years, each of the breakout sessions follow a similar theme, the same theme as the main conference – “Public health working in a political environment and the ethical management of self, looking at the issues we all face in this complex environment”. Each session will allow you listen to and consider different speaker's experiences and perspectives of this. There will also be opportunities for discussion around tables on your own experiences and how what you have heard may help you in the future.

Breakout Session 1

Greg Fell

President of the Association of Director of Public Health (UK)

Director of Public Health for the City of Sheffield



Greg Fell is the Director of Public Health in Sheffield. He graduated from Nottingham University with a degree in biochemistry and physiology in 1993. He has worked as a social researcher in a maternity unit and in a number of roles in health promotion and public health before joining the public health training scheme. Greg worked as a consultant in public health in Bradford in the PCT then Bradford Council. Since February 2016 he has worked for Sheffield City Council as the Director of Public Health for the city.

Greg was also appointed to the role of Vice President to the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) in December 2021 and then became President in October 2023.

Greg was awarded an OBE for services to Public Health in the New Year Honours List for 2026.

Breakout Session 2

Dr Andrew Lee

Professor of Public Health for University of Sheffield



Professor Andrew Lee is a Professor of Public Health at the University of Sheffield with considerable experience working internationally in different contexts from frontline operational humanitarian work, international research, to global health security policy.

He is currently a technical consultant for the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) working on global health emergency response and preparedness policy.

Some of the roles he previously held include as Regional Deputy Director for Health Protection with UKHSA Yorkshire & the Humber, National COVID-19 Incident Director with UKHSA, and Executive Director of Primary Care and Population Health with NHS Vale of York CCG.

In addition to his day job, he is the Editor in Chief for Public Health (a journal of the Royal Society for Public Health), a member of the Scientific Advisory Board with Sante Publique France, and an ILM certified coach with NHS England.

Breakout Session 3

Ailsa Rutter

Director of Fresh and Balance



Ailsa originally trained as a nurse and has worked in public health since 1998 in Australia and the UK.

She has specialist expertise in tobacco control and in 2005 working with others launched Fresh- Making Smoking History – the UK's first regional tobacco control programme- and has been the Director of the multi award winning programme ever since.

She has also been closely involved in the running of Balance since it launched in 2009, the UK's only regional alcohol harms programme in the North East and in April 2021 she became Director of Fresh and Balance. She was awarded an OBE for her work in 2017.

Breakout Session 4

Dr Amy Stevens

Public Health Consultant for Bevan



Dr Amy Stevens is a Consultant in Public Health in West Yorkshire. She has a special interest in child health and inclusion health. Prior to public health training she worked as a paediatric doctor in the UK, New Zealand and India.

She currently works as the Consultant in Public Health at Bevan, a social enterprise providing health and wellbeing services to Inclusion Health populations.

Her wider experience includes roles with Doctors of the World UK Policy and Advocacy Team, Save the Children Global Humanitarian Team, the Children's Commissioner's office and the World Health Organization.

Networking Lunch & the Liz Butcher Award Lecture

The lunch at this year's conference is served adjacent the main plenary hall on ground floor, and will be refreshed to ensure that those joining lunch after the Liz Butcher Lecture will have opportunity to enjoy it as well.

This lunch period, following on from the dedicated period for the abstract marketplace, offers ample opportunity for all attendees to network and chat with colleagues from across the public health system in Yorkshire and the Humber. As the abstract marketplace is located directly next to this area, you can also use this time to continue to take in all these excellent examples of regional and local work.

When you booked your place on the Eventbrite page, you will have had the opportunity to book a place at the Liz Butcher Award lecture. If you did not do this, and would like to attend, please contact us as soon as possible, as spaces will be limited by the space available in the room.

Liz Butcher Award Lecture

Liz Butcher spent her career focused working with the most vulnerable members of our community: the homeless, people with substance and alcohol problems and those from marginalised groups, most recently with the National Treatment Agency and then in the Health and Wellbeing Team at PHE's Yorkshire and Humber Centre.

We received a higher-than-normal number of abstract submissions this year for the Liz Butcher Award Lecture, making the planning committee's task of choosing very difficult. The lecture will be presented between 12.10-12.30pm, and is:

- **"From Sobriety to Connection: Building Recovery That Lasts"**

Presented by Laura McDonough, Public Health Principal for North Lincolnshire

Laura McDonough

Public Health Principal for North Lincolnshire Council



Laura is the Acting Public Health Principal at North Lincolnshire Council, leading on the addictions portfolio and wider public health programmes.

With over ten years' experience in public health and commissioning, her specialist interest lies in substance use, recovery, and reducing health inequalities. Laura is passionate about developing compassionate, person-centred approaches that support long-term recovery and improve outcomes for vulnerable communities.

She has played a key role in developing North Lincolnshire's recovery community, with a strong focus on lived experience, belonging, and sustainable recovery beyond treatment.

Venue Information

The conference is taking place at The Hope Centre, Sheffield. The centre is located just off the Sheffield Parkway, and is a short walk from the Nunnery Square Park & Ride.

The centre's address is:

The Hope Centre

Bernard Road, Sheffield, S2 5BQ

What3words: down.scales.quench

The Hope Centre is a social enterprise, reinvesting their profits in to the Hope Community Foundation and supporting initiatives that uplift communities across Sheffield and beyond.

The Hope Community Foundation exists to bring hope, purpose, and practical support to those who need it the most. Their vision is to create a city where no-one is overlooked – where people feel connected, equipped, and empowered.

With a person-centred approach at its core, our work focuses on:

- Supporting people facing financial hardship and food poverty
- Combating loneliness and social isolation
- Strengthening families and relationships
- Partnering with expert organisations to offer specialist services

Through their 'hub and spoke' delivery model, they provide a vibrant, welcoming centre where individuals can access a wide range of activities, support, and guidance from trusted partners who are excellent at what they do.

"You're not just booking a space – you're building something bigger"

How to get there:

- For those **travelling by car**, there are a couple of options:

Parking at The Hope Centre

The Hope Centre has both a limited car park and an overflow car park available. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis and staff will be on hand to direct you when you arrive.

Spaces can only be reserved for **disabled attendees**. If you would like a space reserving for this reason, please contact marc.hall@hullcc.gov.uk.

Park & Ride

There are 2 options, the Nunnery Square P&R and the Meadowhall Interchange P&R. Both these are on the Yellow Tramline just a short few minutes tramride to the Hyde Park tramstop (closest to the centre).

- For those **travelling by train**, there are also a couple of options:

Sheffield City Train Station

You can either walk to the centre (approximately a 16-17 minute walk with some uphill). This map shows the routes:



Or you can travel by tram, by walking to the **Sheffield Station Tram Stop** on Granville Road, catching the **Blue Line** or **Purple Line** tram to the **Fitzalan Sq – Ponds Forge Tram Stop (1 stop)**, and then catching the **Yellow Line** tram (travelling in the opposite direction towards Meadowhall) to the **Hyde Park Tram Stop (1 stop)**:

