

Association of Directors of Public Health – staff profiles

Alex Parr – PA Administrator

As PA for the President and Chief Executive Alex is responsible for diary management and event co-ordination as well as being first point of contact. She also supports project and policy work and will be undertaking a carbon footprint audit.

Alex's career spans 30 years and incorporates 15 years in the PR and marketing industry where she was a bookkeeper, administration manager and account executive with clients including Tina Turner and the Rolling Stones. She was involved with the co-ordination of the Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday tribute at Wembley Stadium and the John McEnroe tennis exhibition tournament at London Arena. She was also an account executive for the New London Orchestra and worked for a brief stint with the Aldeburgh Foundation.

Thereafter for 15 years Alex was a conveyancing executive in a variety of legal firms. For the past 18 months she has run her own company, Prestige Property Services, a one stop shop sourcing properties within East Anglia for both the individual and the corporate client. As a lawyer, she also carried out the conveyancing work, managed and let the properties. She is also an independent distributor for Forever Living Products which contain natural Aloe Vera and Honey Bee Propolis.

Lucy Manning - Administrator & Project Manager

Lucy's current role includes both financial and organisational administration for the Association as well as membership communications, event co-ordination and project management. Projects include the annual DPH Annual Report Competition and membership surveys.

Her past experience includes work within a Cambridge medical practice and psychiatric bank nursing with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health NHS Trust. Lucy graduated in 2003 with a BSc (Hons) Psychology and joined ALPHA as Development Co-ordinator where she began co-ordinating the Centre for Applied Medical Statistics courses taught by the University of Cambridge and supported a range of PCT development projects.

Lucy trained as first-aider and local risk assessor in 2004 and began to administer and later project manage Uncertain Threats in an Uncertain World, a multi-agency emergency planning training project developing and delivering Silver and Gold level training for all sectors. In March 2006 Lucy was promoted to Project Manager and has continued to develop skills in complex administration, project co-ordination and event management.

Lucy has studied Psychodynamic Counselling with the University of Cambridge and Adlerian Counselling and is a member of the British Psychological Society. She is currently undertaking a part-time doctorate in Counselling Psychology with Roehampton University, London with a view to becoming chartered by 2010.

Julia Ellis - Project Manager

Julia has a wide-ranging experience in complex administration and organisational governance, having worked within local authorities and with the Royal College of Nursing, helping to lead and deliver corporate governance support services.

She has worked at the centre of policy development, particularly relating to public health, nursing and healthcare and been involved in strategic development to support organisational priorities and objectives. Julia has experience of reviewing and introducing organisational development and change. She has contributed to the production of corporate publications and the revision into 'plain English' of complex constitutional documents. She has worked as part of a team responsible for organising high profile national events.

Whilst working in local government she gained a Higher National Certificate in Public Administration. In 2004 Julia completed a Foundation Course in Multi-disciplinary Public Health. More recently, Julia worked as a Project Manager for ALPHA, with a particular remit for children's and young people's services. She managed a variety of multi-disciplinary public health projects, including qualitative research, strategic development & implementation, supporting the integration of children's and young people's services, and event management.

Julia's current role as a Project Manager for the Association of Directors of Public Health has included developing new governance structures for the organisation and collaborative public health policy development.

Nicola Close - Chief Executive

Nicola became the first Chief Executive of the Association of Directors of Public Health in June 2007. Her remit included developing and implementing a robust governance framework and Business Plan as well as managing the work programme. This includes collaborative policy work, advocacy and DPH development. This role requires her using her considerable Public Health and Management knowledge and expertise and extensive networks.

Nicola managed the development and establishment of ALPHA (Access to Learning for the Public Health Agenda) and was appointed as its Director in July 2001 where she directed the work programme, led the team and managed ALPHA's infrastructure and resources. Her financial responsibility included sourcing ALPHA's funding and ad hoc income as well as ensuring financial probity and cost-effectiveness. She was a member of the ALPHA Board. Public Health projects have included service and organisational reviews and needs assessments, educational and development programmes and support for workforce development and modernisation.

As the East of England representative on the UKPHA Council (2002 – 2007) Nicola was a Trustee of the UKPHA undertaking strategic policy work. She led a full governance review in 2004 and was on their Management Committee. She has a personal interest in children with Special Needs and is Chair of Governors at a Secondary school.

Nicola joined the NHS in 1994 as Regional Clinical Audit Co-ordinator (Education) with a remit to provide educational support for Clinical Audit staff and their departments. With the changing Public Health agenda this role widened and as Education & Development Manager for ACET (Anglia Clinical Effectiveness Team) a similar support was offered to Public Health and Clinical Governance. She project managed the region-wide Public Health Health Inequalities Group from 1998-2001 which carried out the first regional measures and target setting work for inequalities following the Acheson Report.

Since 1996 she has managed and developed staff, finance and systems and is a Member of the Institute of Healthcare Management. She has a Master's degree in Mathematics and another in Logic as well as Master's level education in Public Health. Nicola is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, an Associate member of the Faculty of Public Health and a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).

Previously her experience had been as:

- Teacher of Mathematics and Computing to children in a comprehensive school (11-18 years old).
- Tutor to adults in Mathematics.
- Computer Analyst, programmer and technical writer – developing IT management systems for commercial organisations.
- Educational Researcher – qualitative research projects around in-service training for teachers and statistical support for an OFSTED school inspection team.

Nicola is a highly experienced facilitator and trainer having developed and trained on courses in most aspects of Public Health and Management. She regularly presents, lectures and publishes both locally and nationally.