

The Role of the DPH in relation to the ten Faculty of Public Health competencies:

- *surveillance and assessment of population health;*
- *promoting and protecting population health and well-being;*
- *developing quality and risk management within an evaluative culture;*
- *collaborative working for health;*
- *developing health programmes and services and reducing inequalities;*
- *policy and strategy development and implementation;*
- *strategic leadership for health;*
- *working with and for communities;*
- *research and development;*
- *ethically managing self, people and resources.*

The DPH, who is at director level and accredited in all ten PH competencies, needs to lead a team in partnership with other organisations and cover all three PH domains.

The core values for Public Health practice:

- **equity**
- **effectiveness**
- **fairness**
- **empowerment**
- **evidence-base**
- **inclusiveness**

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)

The ADPH has been in existence for more than 150 years. It aims to:

- *collate and present the views of DsPH on public health policy to national governments, the media and other organisations;*
- *influence legislation and policy at a local, regional, national and international level;*
- *facilitate a support network for DsPH to share ideas and good practice and support problem-solving;*
- *identify and fulfil the development needs of DsPH where practicable and appropriate;*
- *in collaboration with others, further the development of comprehensive, equitable public health policies through relevant statutory and other bodies.*

Every DPH in the United Kingdom is a member of ADPH by right unless they request otherwise. Former and Deputy DsPH can sign up to be Associate members. The Association also organises conferences and workshops.

For further information, contact:

ADPH
Nightingale Court
Ida Darwin
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB21 5EE
e-mail: enquiries@adph.org.uk
Tel: 01223 884800
www.adph.org.uk

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Association of Directors of Public Health

The Role of the Director of Public Health

The DPH provides public health leadership in partnership with others to ensure that the local population's needs are assessed and addressed through public health programmes.

This document has been prepared by the Association of Directors of Public Health to explain and champion the leadership role of Directors of Public Health in the UK.

The public health roles for the community may be carried out by others but the overview and public health accountability is exercised via the DPH and relevant statutory organisation. The relationship with regional and local government is critical.

History:

- *From 1848 to 1974 Medical Officers of Health in Local Authorities were professional members of the executive with health & social care responsibilities, managing substantial multi-disciplinary departments and reporting annually to the council on the health of their population.*
- *In 1974, Community Physicians were located in Health Authorities with population responsibilities and part of District Management Teams.*
- *In 1988, Directors of Public Health were executive directors, running public health departments in District Health Authorities.*
- *In 2001, Shifting the Balance of Power in England and similar reforms elsewhere placed Directors of Public Health closer to Primary Care. DsPH are now also in Health Authorities and at regional level.*
- *In England from 2006, joint DPH appointments between PCTs and Local Authorities are promoted as best practice.*

Current DPH role:

- *Public health advocacy and leadership.*
- *Director of an organisation with statutory public health responsibilities for a defined population.*
- *Chief public health adviser to the Board, accountable to the Chief Executive.*
- *Producing an independent Annual Report on the health of the population.*
- *Accredited Public Health Specialist leading the public health team in partnership with others and working across the ten competencies.*
- *Integrating the three domains of health protection, health improvement and health and social care quality, both vertically and horizontally.*
- *Ensuring vertical integration with appropriate communication systems to regional and national levels (especially for health protection).*
- *Leading horizontal integration by including non-specialist public health practitioners in primary care and partner organisations and engaging the public.*
- *Forging strategic partnerships particularly to reduce health inequalities.*
- *Working with primary care and local communities to develop their public health capacity and capability.*
- *Working with public health networks to provide support and share expertise.*

The DPH role and the three domains of Public Health:

Health protection:

disease & injury prevention; communicable disease control; environmental health hazards; emergency planning.

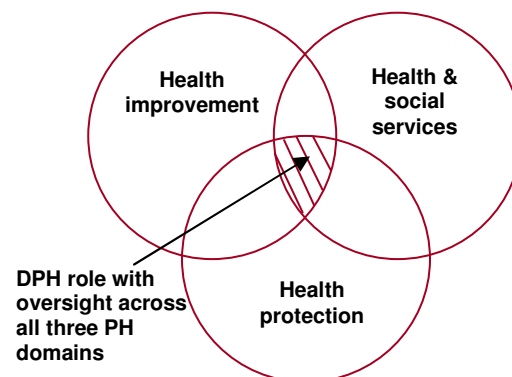
Health & social services:

quality; clinical effectiveness; support for commissioning; audit and evaluation; service planning; efficiency; clinical governance.

Health improvement:

employment; housing; family & community; education; inequalities & exclusion; lifestyles (eg smoking, alcohol and obesity).

Statutory organisation with Public Health accountability



PH oversight for a defined population