



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH August, 2025

We are incredibly sad to share the news that our Communications and Marketing Manager, John Johnston, passed away last month. John had only been with ADPH since January but had become an integral and much-loved member of our small team and we know that he enjoyed speaking to many of our members and colleagues in partner organisations.

Prior to working with us, he held communications roles at The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, the London Mathematical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry, promoting science, medical, and policy issues to a wide range of stakeholders. John will be sorely missed by all of us here at ADPH, and our thoughts are very much with his family and friends.

ADPH Activity

Membership news | August

We are pleased to announce the following membership welcomes and updates:

DsPH: Claire Gomm (Joint Interim DPH Hounslow), Kate Harvey (DPH Isle of Wight), Kelly O'Neill (DPH Luton), Shikha Sharma (Interim DPH Hillingdon), and Sterling Rippy (Joint Interim DPH Hounslow).

Associates: Claire Procter (Assistant DPH Gloucestershire), Joia de Sa (CPH Hackney), Mohammed Jawad (Deputy DPH Barnet), and Peter Davey (Assistant DPH Manchester).

Alumni: Dona Milne.

ADPH infants, children and young people (ICYP) webinar series

We will be hosting a virtual webinar series on adversity, trauma, and resilience in ICYP, in collaboration with [Dr Warren Larkin](#), a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. This series is part of our four nations [ICYP project](#). The first webinar, titled 'Trauma and Resilience Informed Practice – what it is, what it isn't, and how it can change the world...', will be held on Tuesday 23rd September (11:30-13:00) and chaired by Sarah Muckle, ADPH Co-Lead for CYP and DPH Essex.

The session is intended to be an introduction to the evidence and case for change, giving attendees the fundamentals for a trauma and resilience informed approach alongside an argument for a cross sector long-term commitment to early intervention and prevention.

The series is open to all public health colleagues working with ICYP. To register to attend, please [contact us](#).

What Good Local Spatial Planning for Healthy Places Looks Like | 1st August

We published our new resource, [What Good Local Spatial Planning for Healthy Places Looks Like](#), which highlights practical examples across the UK and calls on the Government to give public health teams the funding and influence they need. It has been written by [Michael Chang \(University of Bristol\)](#) and [David Orsin \(UCL\)](#).

ADPH joins call for urgent action on alcohol | 6th August

We have [joined](#) leading public health, medical, and treatment organisations in signing a [letter](#) to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, calling for a comprehensive strategy to tackle rising alcohol harm, after key alcohol policies were reportedly omitted from the NHS 10 Year Health Plan.

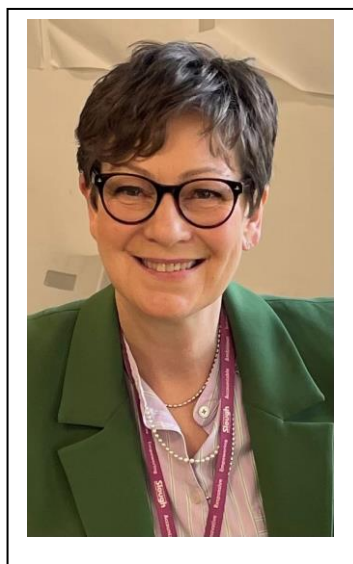
There has been widespread coverage of the [letter](#), including in the [Independent](#), [Mirror](#) and across the country in regional papers.

ADPH in the news

August has seen the following media activity at ADPH:

- Alice Wiseman, ADPH Vice President and DPH Gateshead and Newcastle, has contributed to the first in a series of articles in [Healthcare Leader](#) on the public health system.
- Greg Fell, ADPH President and DPH Sheffield, has published his [monthly blog](#), which looks at the role industry has to play in the delivery of the 10 Year Health Plan.
- Our [response](#) to the gonorrhoea vaccine rollout was reported in the [BMJ](#) and [UK Times](#).
- The [Guardian](#) carried a story about a joint [letter](#) to the Secretary of State for Education that we signed, calling for action to remove harmful industry influence from youth education materials.
- The latest episode of our video podcast, [Public Health Spotlight](#), was published featuring [Prof. Andrew Furber OBE](#), ADPH Honorary Member and former President. He talks about his public health journey from early experiences in Nepal to his current role as Regional DPH for the North West.

Meet our Members



Tessa Lindfield | Director of Public Health | Slough Borough Council

I returned to the UK to do some locum work to fund a Master in Public Health in Melbourne, but one Wednesday there was an advert for the public health training scheme in the Guardian. And before I knew it I was a public health trainee in London.

It felt like a real privilege being part of a developing scheme helping to shape multidisciplinary public health training. I had been in the first year of comprehensive schooling as an 11 year old, and it felt a bit the same, as if everyone was checking how you were going to turn out, fingers crossed that it would be OK.

I was never 100% sure where this would take me and I have been lucky enough to do some work overseas both during my training and afterwards. Working in different systems gives you a richer understanding both of the art of the possible and an appreciation of what happens when essential elements of a programme are missing. There is more than one way to skin a cat as the saying goes!

Read more from Tessa in her blog which will be published on [our website](#) on Monday 1st September.

News from around the UK

Food for Life Walsall | A local food system story webinar | 1st October

Food for Life and Soil Association are hosting a webinar to explore the system-wide Food for Life programme in Walsall. Alongside other experts, Nadia Inglis, DPH Walsall, will share her experience of embedding practical change towards a food system that enables everyone to access healthier and more sustainable food. Presenters will discuss:

- A place-based approach to sustainable food.
- Increasing access to sustainable catering.
- Community leadership for sustainable food systems.
- Action Frameworks for healthier food environments.

Registration is free and open to all.

