



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH September, 2025

ADPH Activity

Membership news | September

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

DsPH: Adeola Agbebiyi (Joint Interim DPH Newham), Claire Greszczuk (Joint Interim DPH Newham), David Johns (DPH West Northamptonshire), Emily Parry-Harries (DPH Rotherham), Katie Ash (DPH Isles of Scilly), Rubinder Bains (DPH Thurrock), Ruth du Plessis (Interim DPH Brent), and Sam Crowe (DPH Dorset).

Associates: Chris Woodcock (CPH North Tyneside), Helen Castledine (CPH Surrey), Louise Gray (Deputy DPH North Tyneside), Rachel Partridge (Deputy DPH Dorset), and Samantha Westrop (Assistant DPH Havering).

Alumni: Jason Strelitz, Julia Weldon, and Melanie Smith.

ADPH joins call to improve housing | 2nd September

ADPH has joined 38 other groups, experts, and campaigners calling on the Government to support an [amendment](#) to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, tabled by the [Local Government Association](#).

Response to MHCLG Local Government Outcomes Framework | 12th September

This month, we submitted our [response](#) to the [Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) (MHCLG) call for feedback on the priority outcomes and draft metrics for the Local Government Outcomes Framework.

Infants, children and young people (ICYP) webinar series | 23rd September

Last week, we held the first webinar of our series focused on adversity, trauma, and resilience in ICYP, as part of our four nations [ICYP project](#). This session, titled 'Trauma and Resilience Informed Practice – what it is, what it isn't, and how it can change the world...' was chaired by ADPH co-lead for ICYP, Sarah Muckle, and a presentation was delivered by [Dr Warren Larkin](#), a Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

ADPH Awards 2025: Nominations open | Deadline: 20th October

Do you know a Director of Public Health who deserves special recognition for their contribution to improving public health? Or a public health team that has used research to inform decisions in a particularly innovative way? If so, [nominate](#) them for one of this year's ADPH Awards, which have been chosen to highlight and celebrate good PH practice.

Planning and Health Collaborative Group meeting | 14th November

As part of our [Healthy Places project](#), funded by [The Health Foundation](#), we are holding a Planning and Health Collaborative Group meeting to share practice on how LAs are developing and applying definitions of 'hot food takeaways'. The session is open to all planning and public health colleagues, so please do share with your networks. To register, please [contact us](#).

ADPH in the news

September has seen the following media activity from ADPH:

- The [Guardian](#) reported on a joint [letter](#) we signed, organised by [LGA](#), urging the Government to support an amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
- There has been [national coverage](#) of our support for the Government's proposed ban on the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to under 16s.
- Tessa Lindfield, DPH Slough, has written September's [monthly blog](#), which discusses her career journey to become a Director of Public Health.
- The latest episode of our video podcast, [PH Spotlight](#) is live, featuring Stephen Gunther, DPH Stoke-on-Trent. We have also shared a [trailer](#) for the next episode featuring Peter Bradley, DPH Jersey.
- Today, Greg Fell, ADPH President and DPH Sheffield, has been quoted in a [BBC News](#) article that discusses weight-loss injections and the implications of debates around tackling obesity becoming medicalised.
- Greg Fell has also published his monthly [presidential blog](#), which explores how harmful industries are influencing children's education.

Meet our Members

Matt Ashton | ADPH Honorary Secretary (Membership) and DPH Liverpool



I strongly believe being a DPH is a privilege. It's a role where you can both influence local and national policy and strategy, but also stand alongside communities at their most vulnerable moments. I've seen both in Liverpool, and those experiences constantly remind me why I chose this path. We know that fairer societies do better overall. That belief has been with me since childhood and has shaped every stage of my career. As I look forward, my commitment is the same as it has always been: To keep pushing for fairness, for equity, and for the health and wellbeing of all our communities. Most important of all for me is how we do this, building true partnerships with our communities at the centre, to create real change.

Read more from Matt in his blog which will be published on [our website](#) on Wednesday 1st October.

News from around the UK

Public Health Scotland | Public Health Innovation Framework | 22nd September

To kick off the start of Scotland's first [National Innovation Week](#), [Public Health Scotland](#) (PHS) has launched an [Innovation Framework](#).

This framework focuses on two main pillars:



- Using innovative approaches to improve public health outcomes and equity.
- Enhancing the skills and mindset within the system to adopt a culture of innovation.

By embracing innovation, PHS believes that the pressures faced by the health and social care system can be tackled, improving health and reducing inequalities. For example, this [video](#) discusses how arts and culture play an important part in health and wellbeing, and highlights its positive impact on cardiovascular outcomes, risk of dementia, and mental health, and possible routes for innovative practice.