

# The Association of Directors of Public Health

## eDPH October, 2025

### ADPH Activity

#### Membership news | October

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

**DsPH:** Alison Patey (DPH Hull), Louise Gray (DPH North Tyneside), Sharon Stoltz (Interim DPH Hillingdon)

**Associates:** Alexa Gainsbury (CPH Devon), Chloe Gay (CPH West Northants), Ciceley Scarborough (Deputy DPH Central Bedfordshire), Danielle Solomon (CPH Kingston), Kate Holburn (Deputy DPH Oxfordshire), Luke Robertshaw (Deputy DPH Northumberland), Marimba Carr (Deputy DPH Milton Keynes), Mike Bridges (CPH Warrington), Shikha Sharma (CPH Hillingdon)

#### ADPH Board Election | Ansaf Azhar elected as Governance Secretary

We are delighted to announce that Ansaf Azhar (DPH Oxfordshire) has been elected to the [ADPH Board](#) as Governance Secretary.

#### ADPH Annual Conference and Awards | Sponsorship announcement

We are pleased to announce that [HCRG Care Group](#), [Intelligent Health](#), [NIHR](#), [NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health](#), [Panoramic Associates](#) and [Penna](#) will be sponsoring our [Annual Conference](#) this year.

This year's ADPH Awards, which will be presented at the conference, include:

- Team Award, sponsored by [Penna](#).
- Partnership Award, supported by the [Faculty of Public Health](#) and the [Royal Society of Public Health](#).
- Practice Improvement Award, sponsored by [Intelligent health](#).
- Research Award, sponsored by [NIHR](#).
- Mentoring Award, supported by [OHID](#).
- Practice Award, sponsored by [Public Health Jobs](#).

Thank you to all our sponsors!

#### ADPH infants, children, and young people (ICYP) webinar | 27<sup>th</sup> October (15:00-16:30)

Yesterday, we held the second webinar in our virtual series on adversity, trauma and resilience in ICYP, in collaboration with [Dr Warren Larkin](#) (Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Managing Director, [Warren Larkin Associates](#)).

The webinar, which was chaired by our lead for children and young people, Sarah Muckle, explored the cost of delayed disclosure, the barriers faced by service users in being heard and believed, and the importance of routine and targeted enquiry to get service users to share their experiences to get suitable and effective help.

It also covered the evidence for adverse childhood experience enquiry in the UK and US and shared recommendations for good practice drawn from evaluations of the [REACH model](#).

#### **Practice sharing webinar: Gambling related harms | 10<sup>th</sup> November (13:00-14:30)**

Next month, we will be hosting a practice sharing webinar on gambling related harms as part of our [commercial determinants of health \(CDOH\) project](#), funded by [The Health Foundation](#).

The webinar will be chaired by Peter Roderick (ADPH CDOH Project Chair, ADPH Addiction Policy Advisory Group Co-lead and DPH York).

The session will include:

- An update from DHSC on the Gambling Levy.
- Possible actions for local authorities to take following the Gambling Levy allocations.
- Local action to tackle gambling related harm in Nottingham.
- Sheffield's historic case on the 'aim to permit'.
- Examples of working within the current licensing framework in Haringey.

The webinar is open to all public health colleagues, so please do share details with your networks. To register, please [contact us](#).

#### **Planning and Health Collaborative Group Meeting | 14<sup>th</sup> November (10:00-11:00)**

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 local authorities are developing and applying definitions of 'hot food takeaways (HFTs)'.

The session will cover:

- National planning policy.
- Local action to restrict HFTs including work on refreshing evidence around restricting takeaways.
- Implementing Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Advertising and sponsorship policies to restrict HFTs.

The session is open to all planning and public health colleagues, so please do share with your networks. To register, please [contact us](#).

#### **EICYP CG | Launch event | 25<sup>th</sup> November (13:30-16:00)**

The [English Infants, Children, and Young People Commissioners Group](#) (EICYP CG) is hosting an [online launch event](#). Speakers from [DHSC](#), [Institute of Health Visiting](#) and [School and Public Health Nurses Association](#) will share updates on the [Healthy Child Programme \(HCP\)](#) guidance refresh and give their perspectives on future priorities for 0-19 HCP commissioning. A key part of the session will be a collaborative workshop focused on shaping the future priorities of the EICYP CG.

The event is open to all 0-19 HCP commissioners working for local authorities in England, so please do encourage your colleagues to [contact us](#) to register.

#### **ADPH evidence | Food and Weight Management Inquiry**

This month, Alice Wiseman (ADPH Vice President and DPH Gateshead and Newcastle) and Helen Gollins (DPH for Trafford) appeared in front of the [Health and Social Care Committee](#) during a [session](#) on food and weight management. [Watch now](#).

### **ADPH submission | Autumn Budget 2025**

Our [budget representation](#) to HM Treasury emphasises the case for investment in prevention and public health as a way to help deliver economic growth.

### **ADPH in the news**

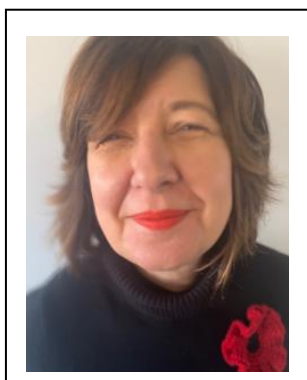
October has seen the following media activity from ADPH:

- Greg Fell (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) featured across the BBC responding to the ban of 'BOGOF' deals. Catch up on his appearances on [BBC breakfast](#) (appearance at 16:20) and [BBC Radio 4](#) (appearance at 07:00), which was also broadcast across a number of local stations. Greg was also quoted in an article on [BBC online](#).
- Matt Ashton (ADPH Board member and DPH Liverpool) has written October's [Member Blog](#) discussing the events that drew him towards public health.
- The next two episodes of our video podcast, [PH Spotlight](#), featuring Peter Bradley (DPH Jersey) and Katrina Stephens (DPH Westmorland and Furness) have been published on our [website](#).
- The [MJ](#) covered our [response](#) to the Government's [call for evidence](#) on proposed changes to the alcohol licensing system.
- We have published this month's [Presidential blog](#) by Greg Fell which explores the impact of misinformation.
- As the Tobacco and Vapes Bill reaches the House of Lords committee stage, there has been widespread media coverage of a quote from our lead for addiction, Peter Roderick, on the importance of passing the legislation quickly, including in an article in the [Daily Mail](#).

### **Quarterly update**

The attached [report](#) gives a summary of our activity from July to September 2025 and includes details of some of our upcoming projects. If you would like to hear more about our work, please [contact us](#).

## **Meet our Members**



### **Julia Weldon | ADPH Alumni member**

I had a brilliant social history teacher in the 70's and even at the age of 15, hearing about social determinants of health, especially in relation to early years, education, employment, housing, and health gave me some insight into the avoidable impact of social and health inequalities. I didn't know it then, but this was the beginning of a journey that would lead to me being a Director of Public Health.

I started my career in public health way back when I was a student nurse in Wakefield in the 1980's, it's hard to believe now but patients smoked in the ward areas and day rooms in the early part of my career. I have a really strong memory of a patient who

was at end of life with COPD, he was struggling to breathe, harmed by tobacco addiction, and smoking a cigarette. He talked about how he wanted everyone to stop smoking and no one to start. Even now I can remember how helpless I felt in terms of what I could offer him, apart from kindness, compassion, and care.

It reignited my curiosity about upstream preventative interventions and my interest in public health...

Read more from Julia in her blog which will be published on [our website](#) on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## News from around the UK

### **ADPH North East | Countering the gambling elements of video games toolkit**

[ADPH North East](#) has published a [toolkit](#) to provide guidance to caregivers and educators to protect children and young people from gambling harms from video games and promote safer online experiences.

The toolkit is intended to highlight the wide range of devices and platforms that children and young people can be exposed to gambling through, and to provide various methods to protect them across the video game communities including blocking tools, enhanced security, promoting awareness and limiting the promotion and exposure of gambling.

Find out more on the ADPH North East [website](#).

