



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH December, 2025

ADPH Activity

Membership news | December

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

DsPH: Rory McGill (Interim DPH Sefton)

Associates: Carolyn Sharpe (CPH Hackney)

Season's Greetings!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and restful break over the festive period.

The ADPH office will be closed from Thursday 25th December and reopens again on Friday 2nd January, although some staff have chosen to take annual leave until Monday 5th January. If you have any urgent enquiries over the holiday period, please contact us via comms@adph.org.uk.

We look forward to another successful year in 2026, working together to improve public health throughout all four nations and dependent territories!

ADPH consultation responses | 5th December

In case you missed them, catch up now with our responses to the call for evidence for:

- **Tobacco and Vapes Bill:** In [our submission](#), we called on the Government to consider how vapes, which can be a helpful tool for smokers when trying to quit, are marketed to reduce their appeal to children and young people.
- **New Towns: Creating Communities:** to the [House of Lords Built Environment Committee](#) set out recommendations on how the built environment can be used to support health and encourage healthier lifestyles.

Visiting No. 10 | 15th December

Greg Fell (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) met with Isabel Abbs, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Health and Social Care to discuss the role Directors of Public Health can play in helping achieve the ambition of a healthier nation.



ADPH in the news

This month:

- Gillian McLauchlan (ADPH sexual health lead and DPH Salford)'s [response](#) to the Government's new [HIV action plan](#) was covered by the Press Association and included in the [DHSC](#) press release.
- The latest episode of [PH Spotlight](#) has been released, which features Colin Cox (DPH Cumberland).
- Jessica Mookherjee (CPH Kent) has written this month's ADPH [member blog](#).
- A [letter](#) signed by ADPH Healthy Places Co-leads, Ansaf Azhar (ADPH Board member and DPH Oxfordshire) and Darrell Gale (DPH East Sussex), written in response to the [third cycling and walking investment strategy](#), was covered in an [article](#) in the [Guardian](#).

Meet our Members



Anna Hartley | Executive Director for Public Health & Communities | Barnsley Council

I stared at the Environmental Health Officer who was on her knees shining a torch under the kitchen cabinets of a takeaway. She had a good look and then gave it the all-clear much to the relief of the owners standing next to us. This was a side of public health that I hadn't seen much of, but I was very much enjoying my 'back to the floor' visit. In the previous year, I had taken part in a health and safety inspection of the local football ground, been shown 'rats the size of cats' at a private bin yard, and door-knocked a vulnerable resident who was being targeted by local drug gangs.

I had gone from being the Director of Public Health for Wakefield and having a small (but perfectly formed!) team of public health specialists with a workload that I knew inside out to becoming the Executive Director of Public Health and Communities in Barnsley...

Read more from Anna in her blog, which will be published on our [website](#) on Monday 5th January.

News from around the UK

Public Health Agency | Pharmacy campaign to support mental health

A [campaign](#) has launched across community pharmacies in Northern Ireland, encouraging people to look after their mental health and wellbeing during December and January.



The campaign invites people to check in with themselves and others by asking, "How are you feeling?", turning a simple greeting into a meaningful opportunity to support mental health. Running in over 500 community pharmacies as part of the Living Well service, the campaign sees pharmacy teams playing an active role in supporting people to maintain their mental wellbeing.