



# The Association of Directors of Public Health

## eDPH January, 2026

### ADPH Activity

#### Membership news | January

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

**DsPH:** John O'Dowd (Interim DPH NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde).

**Associates:** Aidan Kirkpatrick (DPH Lancashire), Ben Brown (CPH East Sussex), Eleanor Rutter (Assistant DPH Sheffield), Jo Freedman (CPH Bedford), Margaret Pacini (CPH Essex), Richard Merrick (CPH Cambridgeshire), Sarah Dougan (CPH Cambridgeshire), and Steven Senior (CPH Bradford).

#### ADPH members recognised in New Year Honours

We were delighted that several of our members were recognised in the New Year King's Honours.

Greg Fell (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) has been awarded an OBE, while Alice Wiseman (ADPH Vice President and DPH Gateshead and Newcastle), Catherine Mbema (DPH Lewisham), and Tim Allison (former ADPH Board member) have all been recognised with MBEs.

#### ADPH joins call for tighter regulations on junk food | 6<sup>th</sup> January

Following [new laws](#) around junk food advertising, we signed an [open letter](#) to the [Government](#), organised by the [Obesity Health Alliance](#), calling for tighter regulations.

#### New guidance | 14<sup>th</sup> January

We have been involved in developing new [guidance](#) with [DHSC](#) and the [Faculty of Public Health](#) that sets out how local authorities give advice to Integrated Care Boards on healthcare public health.

### ADPH in the news

It has been a busy start to the year, with lots of media coverage, including:

- Greg Fell OBE being featured in [The Observer](#) for an article on high street gambling and in an [article](#) in [the BMJ](#), which also included a quote from Darell Gale (ADPH Co-lead for Healthy Places and DPH East Sussex), about [Sheffield City Council](#)'s recent rejection of a new McDonalds drive-through plan.
- Widespread coverage of our [response](#) to the [junk food advertising ban](#), including quotes from Alice Wiseman MBE on the [BBC](#) and in the [BMJ](#).
- The latest episode of [PH Spotlight](#), featuring Christina Gray (DPH Bristol), and an interview with Greg Fell OBE and Tracy Daszkiewicz (DPH Aneurin Bevan) on in [RSPH](#)'s ['Spread the Health'](#) podcast.
- Sara Blackmore's (NHS, ICS and Social Care PAG Co-lead and DPH Windsor and Maidenhead) [response](#) being quoted in an [article](#) in [Healthcare Leader](#) on the [new guidance](#) from [DHSC](#) on healthcare public health.
- Anna Hartley (DPH Barnsley)'s contribution to our monthly [member blog](#).

## Quarterly update

The attached [report](#) gives a summary of our activity from October to December 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

### Catherine Mbema | Director of Public Health | Lewisham



During my 4th year at medical school back in 2005, I studied Management as my intercalated BSc degree. This provided my first insight into doing more beyond a clinical role as a future doctor. Covering topics such as health economics, strategy and managing healthcare organisations, all new to me at the time and potentially boring to some, were really intriguing for me. Though largely focused on healthcare, the year of study spurred my interest in things that impact upon people's health in the broadest sense, though I was not yet aware that public health was a speciality option for me!

I progressed through my first year as a junior doctor and discovered that I could do a placement in public health. I set about swapping out of a surgical placement as soon as I could to spend four months with the North West London Health Protection team. Being part of that team, responding to cases and outbreaks of communicable disease, thinking about how they could be prevented and being around public health specialists gave me further insight into a future career, and helped to confirm that public health was for me. Read more from Catherine in her blog, which will be published on our website on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. News from around the UK

### England | Data hub for health inequalities | 21<sup>st</sup> January

The [British Medical Association](#) has published a [data hub](#) for health inequalities in England. The hub is a collation of datasets which provide a clear, comprehensive picture of the scale and impact of health inequalities. The publication also contains evidence-based recommendations for the [UK Government](#) and its arm's-length bodies.



The page will be updated every six months with the latest data, and will be followed by webpages for the devolved nations later in the year.