



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH February, 2026

ADPH Activity

Membership news | February

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

DsPH: Houda Al-Sharifi (DPH Hounslow), Jack Bedeman (DPH Surrey), Katie Geary (DPH NHS Tayside)

Associates: Cristina Osborne (DPH Bracknell Forest), Dhanya Gardner (CPH Somerset), Jessica Naylor (CPH Somerset)

ADPH welcomes the National Cancer Plan | 4th February

At the beginning of the month, we [welcomed](#) the new [National Cancer Plan](#), particularly its strong focus on reducing health inequalities. In addition to what is outlined in the plan, we have called for longer-term measures to help prevent cancers linked to health-harming products.

ESUCG Impact Report 2024/25 | 4th February

The [English Substance Use Commissioners' Group](#) (ESUCG) has published its [Impact Report](#) for 2024/25.

ADPH and ESHSCG CAB-PrEP briefing | 6th February

We have published a [joint briefing](#) with the [English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners' Group](#) (ESHSCG) on Cabotegravir PrEP. ESHSCG will be hosting a supporting [webinar](#) on Thursday 26th February, which is open to commissioners and service leads. [Get in touch](#) to register.

ADPH in the news

This month:

- Greg Fell OBE's [appearance](#) at the Health and Social Care Committee, where he gave evidence on vaccinations, was covered by the [Pharmaceutical Journal](#), and [World Today News](#). He was also quoted on [LBC Radio](#) about the rise in vaccine misinformation.
- A [new episode](#) of [PH Spotlight](#) was published featuring Siobhan Farmer, who reflects on her career journey and role as DPH of Gloucestershire. The next episode, which features Mike Sandys (DPH Leicestershire), will be available from tomorrow.
- The [latest edition](#) of our member blog was published, written by Catherine Mbema MBE (DPH Lewisham), exploring her passion for working alongside communities.
- Our [response](#) to the launch of the [extending smoke-free places](#) consultation received widespread coverage, including quotes from Peter Roderick in the [UK Times](#) and [Healthcare Management](#).
- Alice Wiseman MBE (ADPH Vice President and DPH Gateshead and Newcastle) was quoted in an article in [Decision Marketing](#) about the removal of alcohol marketing restrictions from England's 10 Year Health Plan.

- The [Daily Mail](#), [Belfast Telegraph](#), and other outlets, reported on the [Alcohol Health Alliance's letter](#) to the Northern Ireland Executive, which was signed by over 60 organisations including ADPH, calling for Minimum Unit Pricing and other life-saving policies in response to rising alcohol deaths.

Meet our Members



Siobhan Farmer | Director of Public Health | Gloucestershire

In 1988, Donald Acheson described public health as ‘the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organised efforts of society’, and that definition has always resonated. The science tells you what is happening; the art is how you respond, how you interpret the evidence, work with communities, and make judgments in complex, real-world situations.

My early roles were in health development: delivering sex education programmes in schools to reduce teenage pregnancy, supporting drug services, and developing school food policies around the time Jamie Oliver took on the Turkey Twizzler. Those experiences shaped how I think about trust and listening. Interventions only work when you understand the pressures, fears, and practical barriers people face, and I saw how national policy (and occasionally a determined celebrity chef!) can influence local practice. I went on to complete a Masters degree and joined the national public health training scheme in 2014.

Read more from Siobhan in her blog, which will be published on [our website](#) on Monday 2nd March.

News from around the UK

Public Health Agency | Immunise, protect, thrive | 18th February

Northern Ireland's [Public Health Agency](#) has produced a [leaflet](#) highlighting the importance of routine childhood vaccination, outlining how it protects children from disease, and presenting a roadmap of childhood vaccination schedules.

The resource was produced with, and distributed to, community pharmacies that deliver the Living Well service, which is offered by over 500 pharmacies in Northern Ireland in partnership with the Public Health Agency, Community Pharmacy NI and the Department of Health.

