



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH June, 2026

ADPH Activity

Membership news | June

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

DsPH: Helen Johnston (Interim DPH Nottingham), Kelly Evans (Interim DPH Slough), Liz Brutus (DPH Hounslow)

Associates: Anna Frearson (CPH Leeds), Anna Starling (CPH Ealing), Caron Walker (CPH Leeds), Dawn Bailey (CPH Leeds), Elspeth Anwar (CPH Liverpool), Kathryn Ingold (CPH Leeds), Lucy Vanes (CPH Manchester), Miho Yoshizaki (CPH Ealing), Pippa Bird (CPH Leeds)

Alumni: Houda Al-Sharifi

A warm welcome to our new Chief Executive

We are delighted to announce that Layla McCay has been appointed as our new Chief Executive and will join us at the end of August. She has a medical degree from the [University of Glasgow](#) and a Master's degree in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing from the [London School of Economics](#) and [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#) (LSHTM). She trained as a psychiatrist before beginning her policy career and has held roles at [DHSC](#), [WHO](#), the [World Bank](#), and two global public health charities. Layla also founded [The Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health](#) and for the past eight years, has sat on the Executive Team at NHS Confederation (now [The NHS Alliance](#)). She has also held academic positions at universities across the world, including [LSHTM](#).

New ADPH Board member

We are pleased to welcome Kate Blackburn (DPH Wiltshire) to the [ADPH Board](#) as Interim Honorary Secretary (Practice Improvement), while Lucy Hubber is on secondment. Kate is the South West Practice Improvement Lead and a DPH representative on the [ADPH Practice Improvement Board](#), of which she will now be Chair.

New ADPH Council representative

We warmly welcome Rob Howard (DPH Leicester) to the [ADPH Council](#) as a representative for East Midlands, joining Ellie Houlston (DPH Derbyshire). Our [Council members](#) work to ensure good two-way communications between us and their network, as well as helping to lead our [Policy Advisory Groups](#), which inform ADPH policy.

HM The King's Birthday Honours List 2026

We are delighted to see Helen Atkinson (DPH Portsmouth and former ADPH Board member) recognised with an MBE for services to public health in [The King's Birthday Honours](#). Many congratulations Helen!

ADPH submissions of written evidence

Our submissions of written evidence to the following parliamentary committee inquiries have now been published:

- [Delivering the Child Poverty Strategy](#)
- [Applying the new NPM to advertising and promotions restrictions](#)
- [The Health Bill](#)

Evidence submission | Childhood Vaccinations Committee | 15th June

Earlier this month, Ruth Tennant (ADPH Board member and DPH Solihull) gave [oral evidence](#) at the House of Lords [Childhood Vaccinations Committee](#) following our [written submission](#) to the inquiry.

ADPH and Faculty of Public Health (FPH) | Healthcare Public Health joint report | 24th June

We have published our co-authored [report](#), developed in partnership with [FPH](#), which sets out our insights and recommendations for strengthening public health within the NHS in England.

The report calls for public health to be clearly defined and properly resourced within NHS structures so it can support its ambitions to improve population health and reduce inequalities. It sets out ten recommendations, including rebuilding specialist public health leadership in Integrated Care Boards and provider organisations, recognising DsPH as the leadership anchor at place, and strengthening professional standards in senior roles.

Thank you to Julia Weldon (ADPH Alumni and former Board member) for her valuable contribution to its development!

ADPH in the news

This month:

- Greg Fell OBE (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) was featured in an article by [The MJ](#) exploring neighbourhood health in the context of devolution, local government reorganisation, and NHS reforms.
- We published this month's [Presidential blog](#), where Greg reflects on the hidden costs behind major sporting events like the World Cup.
- Peter Roderick (ADPH Addiction Co-Lead and DPH York) has written our [member blog](#), where he reflects on chairing our [Commercial Determinants of Health Project](#) Advisory Group, and also featured in the latest episode of [PH Spotlight](#), where he talks about his path to becoming a DPH.
- Sarah Muckle (ADPH Children and Young People Co-Lead and DPH Essex) wrote a [blog](#) on her experience chairing our [Infants, Children, and Young People Project](#) Advisory Group and also welcomed our joint open [letter](#) to the press, covered by [The Probe](#), [Foodmanufacturer](#), and [Fuse](#), calling for an immediate ban on selling energy drinks to children.
- Sarah Perman (ADPH Obesity Lead and DPH Hertfordshire) was quoted in the [BBC](#), [UK Times](#), and [BritBrief](#), where she discussed how harmful commercial influences are a key driver behind rising obesity rates in young people.
- [The MJ](#) (print) reported on Sally Cartwright (DPH Cambridgeshire) and David Munday (DPH Buckinghamshire) joining [ADPH Council](#).
- [Healthcare Management](#), [LGC](#), and [The MJ](#) covered the appointment of Layla McCay as our new Chief Executive.

Meet our Members



Victor Joseph | Consultant in Public Health | Doncaster

My health profession journey started following my training in Curative and Preventive Medicine more than 36 years ago, grounded in the principles of primary health care. This meant that I was introduced to public health early in my career.

I then continued on to complete the public health specialist training programme and became a Consultant in Public Health in 2005. This was one of my greatest ambitions and achievements to date, and I have been in this role in Doncaster ever since.

This role has been rewarding and fulfilling, and I feel I am making a real difference in the lives of the people of Doncaster. During this time, I have led on health protection and chaired the local Health Protection Assurance Group since public health moved to local government. I am especially proud of my contributions and those of my colleagues in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic and I have also led on initiatives to reduce health inequalities, for example, improving the health of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

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

News from around the UK

North West England | Stop for Good campaign | 26th May

The [Champs Public Health Collaborative](#) in Cheshire and Merseyside has launched a new multi-channel campaign [Stop for Good](#) highlighting the emotional harm caused by smoking. Focusing on the impact smoking has not just on the individual but on their family, friends, and loved ones, the campaign aims to raise awareness of the benefits of quitting, encourage quit attempts, and connect individuals with accessible local support services. The campaign places a strong emphasis on long-term success, recognising that quitting smoking is rarely a single event but a journey that may involve multiple attempts.

