

The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH July, 2026

Nicola Close MBE

We are incredibly sad to share that our CEO, Nicola Close MBE, died earlier this month.

Nicola became ADPH's first staff member in 2007 and, over the next 19 years, worked tirelessly to amplify the voice of Directors of Public Health, establishing ADPH as the highly respected organisation it is today.

Nicola will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with her, especially our team at ADPH, our members, our colleagues, and most of all by her family who our thoughts are very much with.

We would also like to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their memories and reflections of working with Nicola. These words speak to the respect so many people had for her, and to the profound impact she had as a leader, colleague, and formidable advocate for public health.

For those who would like to reflect on Nicola's remarkable career and legacy across public health, we invite you to read our [full tribute](#).

ADPH Activity

Membership news | July

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

DsPH: Carrie Abbott (DPH Barnsley), Emma Matthews (Acting DPH Dudley), Rod Thomson (Interim DPH St Helens)

Associates: Anna Hartley (CPH Calderdale), Anna Merla (CPH East Sussex), Chloe Gay (Assistant DPH Birmingham), Clare Jackson (Assistant DPH Tameside), Katherine Packham (CPH Leicester City), Nicola Rosenberg (CPH West Sussex), Shirley Goodhew (CPH St Helens), Simon Harvey (Assistant DPH Derbyshire)

Alumni: Peter Donnelly

ADPH and Faculty of Public Health joint statement on climate change | 9th July

We have published a [joint statement](#) with the [Faculty of Public Health](#) setting out ways public health teams can strengthen climate change action across their routine practice.

Mental Health Strategy for England | 15th July

We have published our [response](#) to the Government's [call for evidence](#) to inform the development and implementation of a new cross-government Mental Health Strategy for England.

EHSHCG impact report 2025/26 | 22nd July

The [English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners' Group](#) (EHSHCG) has published its [impact report](#) for 2025/26.

Public Health in the New NHS: Opportunities, Challenges and Leadership webinar | 10th September

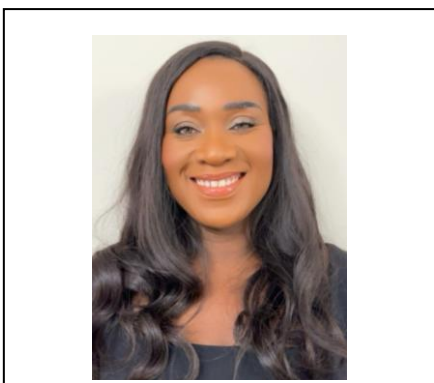
Following the publication of our [joint report](#) with the [Faculty of Public Health](#) which calls for accredited public health expertise to be built back into the NHS, [NHS England](#) are hosting a webinar to discuss the report findings. If you would like to join the webinar, please [contact us](#).

ADPH in the news

This month:

- Greg Fell OBE (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) was quoted in the Government's [press release](#) launching the [cardiovascular disease modern service framework](#), with his comments featured in several articles, including [The UK Times](#) and the [Integrated Care Journal](#). Greg was also featured in an article in the [BMJ](#) (print) on weight loss medication spend and the need to prioritise prevention strategies for obesity.
- Alison Challenger (ADPH Spokesperson for Addiction and DPH West Sussex) was featured in the Government's [press release](#) announcing a [consultation](#) on tobacco and vapes product packaging and display, with her comments featured in [The UK Times](#) and listed in the [Caithness Business Index](#).
- Alice Wiseman MBE (ADPH Vice President and DPH Gateshead and Newcastle) appeared on [BBC Radio 2](#) to discuss the proposed ban on outdoor junk food advertising, with additional coverage across [BBC Radio 4](#), [BBC Scotland](#), and widespread reporting by local BBC radio networks.
- Sarah Muckle (ADPH Spokesperson for Infants, Children, and Young People and DPH Essex) was quoted in the Government's [press release](#) announcing the ban on the sale of energy drinks to children under 16 in England, which was reported on in [The UK Times](#) and listed in the [Caithness Business Index](#).
- Dr Victor Joseph (CPH Doncaster) has written our [member blog](#) in which he explores what being a mentor means to him.
- Dr Lincoln Sargeant (DPH Torbay) featured in the latest episode of [PH Spotlight](#), where he shares his advice for aspiring public health leaders.

Meet our Members



Shade Agboola | Director of Public Health | Warwickshire

What I value most about public health leadership is the opportunity to make a meaningful difference at scale. We are uniquely positioned to influence the systems and environments that shape health outcomes. This is only possible through collaboration across organisations, sectors, and communities; and I am continually struck by the expertise, commitment, and creativity of colleagues working across the system. Progress is rarely owned by one organisation alone; it is built through shared leadership and collective effort.

An important part of our role is also to bring visibility to complex and sometimes uncomfortable challenges. Whether addressing inequalities, advocating for prevention, or navigating difficult trade-offs, public health requires us to combine evidence with clarity and purpose. Communicating these issues effectively, and maintaining a focus on long-term impact, is a central part of leadership in this field.

It is a privilege to be part of a profession that plays such a vital role in shaping healthier communities, and to contribute to a shared national effort to improve the health of our population.

Read more from Shade in her blog which will be published on our [website](#) on Monday 3rd August.

News from around the UK

LHGP | Developing the Good Governance Toolkit | 12th July

We're pleased to share a new article written by Anna Brook, Honorary Research Fellow at the [University of Bath](#) and [Local Health and Global Profits](#) (LHGP) member, and Katherine Körner, Consultant in Public Health for [Lewisham Council](#), on the development of the [Good Governance Toolkit](#), an actionable tool, endorsed by ADPH, designed to help local authorities manage commercial relationships and influences to benefit public health.

The article, which is available to read via the LHGP [website](#), summarises the steps taken to create the toolkit, including building an evidence base, working with experts, writing the toolkit, and promoting its use.

