



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH August, 2026

ADPH Activity

ADPH Awards 2026 | Nominations now open

We are delighted to announce that [nominations](#) for the ADPH Awards 2026 are now open for the following categories, which have been chosen to highlight and celebrate good public health practice:

- CMOs' National Impact Award – for a **DPH** in recognition of the impact they have had since starting the role. This award is supported and judged by the CMOs of all four nations.
- Innovative Practice Award – for a **DPH** who has demonstrated or championed innovative practice within their organisation.
- Mentoring Award – for an **ADPH mentor** who has shown dedication and commitment to mentoring as part of the ADPH mentoring scheme.
- Partnership Award – for a **DPH** who has led a successful local or national partnership with a sector or organisation.
- Practice Improvement Award – for a **DPH-led public health team** who have established effective ways to improve practice*.
- Team Award – for a **DPH-led public health team** who have worked exceptionally well together to improve public health outcomes in their area*.
- Research Award – for a **DPH-led public health team** for undertaking public health research, or using research evidence in an innovative way, to inform decision making in their organisation*.

*To be eligible for these awards, the team must sit within the DPH-led public health function.

[Nominations](#) are welcomed for any of the above awards from **anyone** who has worked alongside DsPH and/or public health teams via the [nomination form](#). Winners will be selected by a panel of judges, made up of our new Chief Executive, Layla McCay, the four CMOs, and representatives from the awards' sponsors. Please note, the deadline for nominations is **11:00 am Monday 12th October**.

We are very much looking forward to reading the nominations. In the meantime, please do share the award information and [nomination link](#) far and wide!

A warm welcome to Layla McCay, ADPH Chief Executive

Last week, we were delighted to officially welcome Layla McCay, our new Chief Executive, to the team.

Layla brings a wealth of experience in policy, having held roles previously at [DHSC](#), [WHO](#), the [World Bank](#), and two global public health charities, alongside an academic background which spans medicine and psychiatry. Layla is also passionate about improving community wellbeing and founded The Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health. Over the past eight years, she has sat on the Executive Team at NHS Confederation (now [The NHS Alliance](#)).

As she begins her journey with us, we look forward to the perspective and leadership she brings to continue growing our impact, welcome Layla!

Membership news | August

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

Associates: Lucy Gavens (CPH Lincolnshire), Sion Lingard (Deputy DPH Cardiff and Vale UHB), Zara Hammond (CPH Coventry).

Response to the Government's plans to tackle gambling harm | 13th August

We have published a [response](#) welcoming the Government's [plans](#) to give councils and communities more say over their high streets, including greater decision making power over whether new betting shops can open in their area.

Response to updated National Planning Policy Framework | 19th August

We have published a [response](#) welcoming the updated [National Planning Policy Framework](#).

Local Health and Global Profits (LHGP) | Commercial determinants of health database | 26th August

As part of our work on the commercial determinants of health, we have helped [LHGP](#) to develop a new [searchable database](#) to support local authorities, public health teams, and researchers.

ADPH in the news

This month:

- Greg Fell OBE (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield) was quoted in a [BMJ investigation](#) into the marketing of products high in fat, sugar, and salt at the UK's largest school food show, with his comments subsequently featured in several news articles, including by the [iPaper](#) and the [Daily Mail](#).
- Peter Roderick (ADPH spokesperson for the Commercial Determinants of Health and DPH York) featured on the [Institute of Alcohol Studies' 'The Alcohol Alert' podcast](#), where he talks about the harmful commercial influences shaping our health and our national work to support public health teams in responding to these challenges.
- We published August's [member blog](#), written by Dr Shade Agboola (DPH Warwickshire), who reflects on her early career in medicine to improving community health and wellbeing across Warwickshire.

Quarterly update

The [attached report](#) gives a summary of our activity from April to June 2026 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



Dr Mohammed Jawad | Deputy DPH | Barnet

I began to realise that good health advice alone was not enough to improve health. People were trying to make the 'right' choices, but those choices were shaped and often limited by factors outside their control. That was probably the point where things clicked for me. I realised that health was not solely shaped by healthcare. It is also shaped by the environments people return to, the opportunities they have, and the constraints they live with day to day. I saw patients discharged from hospital back into the very circumstances that had contributed to their illness in the first place. Whilst my clinical work was certainly meaningful, I had a strong desire to look beyond the clinical and towards

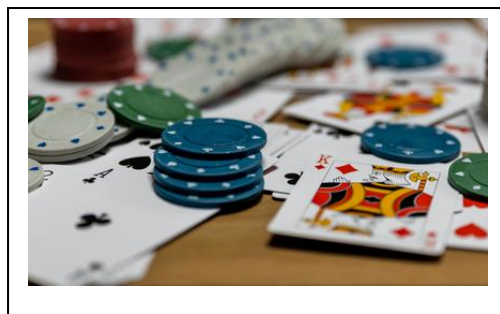
the wider system. That's when I found public health as a career option, and that desire has stayed with me ever since.

Read more from Mohammed in his blog, which is now available on our [website](#).

News from around the UK

Sheffield | Action on commercial gambling | 21st August

We are pleased to share a [journal article](#) written by Greg Fell OBE (ADPH President and DPH Sheffield), Dr Jenny Blythe (Senior Clinical Lecturer, [Queen Mary University](#)), and Anna Twelves (Health Improvement Principal, Sheffield) outlining Sheffield City Council's decision to turn down an adult gambling centre license application.



The article explains the approach taken, the evidence presented by the council public health team, and the grounds on which the application was refused. It serves as a practical resource for councils considering how licensing powers and local policies can be used to prevent gambling harm.