

## What is public health?

Public health is about improving and protecting the health of groups of people (or 'populations') rather than treating individual patients. It is concerned with 'the bigger picture'. Public health professionals must take action to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease, protect and improve general health and healthcare services for their local 'population' – which could be a rural community, an entire city or even the global population.

Public health reaches beyond the usual boundaries of NHS structures and specialists can be found in national and local government agencies, the military, local community and voluntary organisations, as well as academic and European institutions. It pulls together skills and people from a wide range of disciplines who share the common goal of making us healthier. The majority of public health specialists work in the public sector.

**Thinking of choosing a career in public health?** Read our guide to public health, *Specialise in the Bigger Picture* or visit our online guide to specialising in public health at: [www.fph.org.uk/careers/index.php](http://www.fph.org.uk/careers/index.php)

## Faculty Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote, for the public benefit, the advancement of knowledge in the field of public health, and to develop public health with a view to maintaining the highest possible standards of professional competence and practice.

## Find out more

Visit our website at [www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk) or contact the relevant department:

### Education and training

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w: [www.fph.org.uk/training](http://www.fph.org.uk/training)  
t: 020 7224 0642

### Public health appointments, CPD & workforce issues

e: [ace@fph.org.uk](mailto:ace@fph.org.uk)  
w: [www.fph.org.uk/prof\\_affairs](http://www.fph.org.uk/prof_affairs)  
t: 020 7935 0243

### Publications, policy development

e: [policy@fph.org.uk](mailto:policy@fph.org.uk)  
w: [www.fph.org.uk/resources](http://www.fph.org.uk/resources)  
t: 020 7935 3115

### Media, press & PR

e: [news@fph.org.uk](mailto:news@fph.org.uk)  
t: 020 7935 3115

### Annual conference and other events

e: [events@fph.org.uk](mailto:events@fph.org.uk)  
w: [www.publichealthconferences.org.uk](http://www.publichealthconferences.org.uk)  
t: 020 7935 3115

### Membership, associate status

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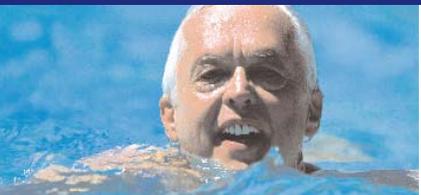
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# The Faculty of Public Health

working hard for public health



Find out more about  
who we are and what we do



## What is the Faculty of Public Health?

The Faculty is:

- the UK standard-setting body for training and professional matters for public health specialists
- an advocate for public health
- a membership organisation
- a registered charity
- a faculty of the UK's Royal Colleges of Physicians (Edinburgh, Glasgow, London).

## History

The Faculty was established in 1972 by the Royal Commission on Medical Education in recognition of the growing need to treat public health practice as a distinct specialty, and the unique contribution it makes to health improvement.

The Faculty has worked to develop public health as a multidisciplinary specialty to encompass the growing diversity of its members' professional backgrounds and public health as a whole. This commitment is reflected in our name change in 2003 from the Faculty of Public Health Medicine to the Faculty of Public Health.

## Our aims

Our charity has three important aims:

- to promote, for public benefit, advances in public health
- to maintain the highest possible standards of public health practice and competence
- to give authoritative guidance and advocate on public health issues

## What we do

The Faculty's work spans the whole public health career pathway – from helping to decide whether or not to choose a career in public health, to supporting people through their training and throughout their professional life.

We do this by **setting the standards for specialists in public health in the UK**. This means quality assuring the Higher Specialist Training Programme for public health and setting the examinations that all trainees must take in order to work as specialists. We also monitor the progress of trainees throughout their training, providing advice and support where needed.

As well as **advocating and lobbying**, at national and European levels, on public health issues, we also **produce a wide range of resources** to encourage best practice at local level (including toolkits giving practical steps for action on issues such as obesity, to running annual events to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking between those working in public health). We produce, through the Oxford University Press, the *Journal of Public Health* which publishes papers of high scientific quality to promote good public health practice. Visit <http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org>

We also play a **statutory role in the appointment of consultants**, providing guidance to both employers and employees on senior public health appointments, and advise the NHS on workforce planning.

The Faculty also **works at European and international levels** to promote high standards of public health practice. We are members of the European Public Health Association and the European Public Health Alliance.

## Our members

Faculty members come from a diverse range of professional backgrounds (including clinical, academic, policy) and are employed in a variety of settings, usually working at a strategic or specialist level.

Our members are integral to the work of the Faculty. Our board of trustees, which includes seven elected officers, sets the Faculty's strategic direction. Members also sit on our committees and working groups, helping to shape policy and drive forward our aims and objectives. All our members, including officers, give their services on a voluntary basis.

We also offer an 'Associate' status designed for organisations and people working in public health or related fields who wish to receive regular information on the specialty and to be linked to the Faculty.

## Our partners

Effective partnership working is critical to our work, as well as to good public health. Some of our partners include:

- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
- Association of Directors of Public Health
- British Dental Association
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- European Public Health Alliance
- European Public Health Association
- Faculty of Occupational Medicine
- National Heart Forum
- Postgraduate Medical Education & Training Board
- Royal Society of Health
- Royal Institute of Public Health
- UK Departments of Health
- UK Public Health Association

