



## Public Health Spaces

### FPH's Vision for the Public's Health

Monday 11 July 2024, 16:00 – 17:00

#### Speaker biographies

##### **Professor Kevin Fenton** **President, Faculty of Public Health**

Professor Kevin Fenton is the President of the Faculty of Public Health. He is a senior public health expert and infectious disease epidemiologist who has worked in a variety of public health executive leadership roles across government and academia in the United Kingdom and internationally. His specialist interests are in tackling health inequalities, infectious disease prevention and control, climate justice and urban health.

Professor Fenton is the Regional Director for London in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Within this role, he is also the statutory public health advisor to the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority and the Regional Director of Public Health for NHS London. He is also the government's Chief Advisor on HIV and Chair of the HIV Action Plan Implementation Steering Group for England.



##### **Cat Pinho Gomes** **Chair, FPH Specialty Registrars Committee**

Cat is an NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Public Health Medicine at the Institute for Global Health at UCL and specialty registrar (ST5) in London, currently working at the Centre for Climate and Health Security and Met Office. She is also honorary lecturer at KCL and the George Institute for Global Health at ICL.

She completed medical school in Portugal in 2012 and moved to the UK inspired by her dream of working for the NHS. Although she initially



started her specialty training in Cardiothoracic Surgery in Manchester, her long-term illness forced a sharp turn in her career. She completed her DPhil in the University of Oxford, simultaneously with an MSc in Public Health at KCL. She started her specialty training in Public Health in August 2020 as NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow at KCL.

She has an insatiable curiosity and broad research interests, which explains why she has been involved in many different types of research over the years. She has finally committed to her two passions: climate and air pollution and health and gender inequalities. She co-leads the implementation of the Climate and Health Strategy within the Faculty's Climate and Health Committee; is chair of the Faculty's Specialty Registrars' Committee, which represents registrars nationwide; and is co-chair of the Academic Public Health Special Interest Group, which she co-founded in 2022. In addition, she is committed to public health education and has been actively teaching in the MPH at KCL and UCL since 2020. She is also leading the European course on climate and health organised by the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), as she is member of the working group on climate and health.

### **Dr Catherine Mbema** **Faculty Board Member for London**

Catherine is a medically qualified public health professional, who trained in medicine at Imperial College London and subsequently trained in public health across a number of local authorities in South East London (including Bromley, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham). She was appointed Director of Public Health for Lewisham in 2020.

Dr Mbema was born in London to parents of West African heritage and has lived in a number of London boroughs in the city to date. She is passionate about seeing improvements in public health for those living in the city and now particularly in Lewisham. In her time as Director of

Public Health she has ambitions to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities by working with communities alongside statutory partners. As part of this ambition, she co-leads the Public Health Tackling Racism and Inequality programme on behalf of the Association of Directors of Public Health London (ADPHL) alongside Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health for City and Hackney.



### **Helene Denness** **Faculty Board Member for East Midlands**

Helene Denness has more than 30 years' experience in public sector roles. She is currently the Deputy Director of Public Health for North Northamptonshire Council, alongside being a Training Programme Director and Faculty Board Member for the East Midlands. In her role as Deputy Director of Public Health, Helene has the portfolio lead for children and young people, substance misuse, serious violence, and sexual health. Helene's current registration as a nurse and public health consultant ensures her credibility with clinical colleagues.

Key to Helene's operational success has been forming strong, trusting relationships across systems. Her career has been infused with a



commitment to reducing inequity and inequality and has encompassed local, regional, and national roles. Confident to lead complex partnerships, she led Nottingham's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Community of Practice. Focusing on mental health, Helene worked tirelessly to gain the confidence of community members and bring together statutory and voluntary sector partners to develop shared and owned actions.

Helene has drawn on her personal as well as professional experiences to inform her work, speaking about both neurodivergence and mental health issues, from a personal and parental perspective in the national media, at conferences and in parliamentary groups, influencing national policy. She is an active member of the National Autistic Society and former trustee of Young Minds.