



FPH Public Health Spaces

The future of the health protection system in England

Wednesday 21 May 2025, 13:00 - 14:00

Speaker biographies

Professor Dominic Mellon

South West Regional Deputy Director for Health Protection, UK Health Security Agency

Dominic is a public health specialist, senior Civil Servant, and Visiting Professor at the University of the West of England, where he is alumnus-turned-lecturer on the MSc Public Health programme. He is a dynamic regional system leader who enjoys working across strategic, tactical and operational tiers, and at the interface between organisations.

Following an early career in emergency preparedness, response and recovery working in both local government and the NHS, Dominic completed public health specialty training and then held various Consultant in Public Health and Health Protection roles in both local government and Public Health England. Dominic is currently the UK Health Security Agency South West Regional Deputy Director for Health Protection, with responsibility for protecting the health and wellbeing of the population from Gloucestershire in the north, down to Dorset in the south, and west to the Isle of Scilly.

Dominic graduated from Coventry University with a first-class honours degree in Development and Health in Disaster Management and now combines both public health and emergency management disciplines as a national lead for regional preparedness and response. Dominic is an active Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, chairing the Health Protection Committee and supporting several national policy steering groups.

Dominic has experience of leading high-profile, complex and sensitive incidents at local, regional, and national levels. He has been awarded two special service medals by the Faculty of Public Health – one for his role in supporting the local response to the Novichok incident in Salisbury, Wiltshire, the other for his regional leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. He lives in Berkeley, Gloucestershire with his family and other animals.





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

Kevin Fenton CBE 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 include tackling health inequalities; HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health; non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control; 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 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 President of the British Science Association (2024-25), the government's Chief Advisor on HIV and Chair of the HIV Action Plan Implementation Steering Group for England.



Professor Dame Jenny Harries **Chief Executive, UK Health Security Agency**

Professor Dame Jenny Harries is the first Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency – an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care established in October 2021. She leads the agency and is accountable for its strategy and operations, and the effective and efficient use of public funds, with a remit to protect the nation from external hazards to health.

After medical studies at Birmingham University, she undertook specialist training in Public Health Medicine in Wales. She has wide experience of clinical and public health science and practice, as well as health service commissioning from work in the NHS and in local, regional, and national government. Having played central roles in the UK's response to a number of significant public health incidents – including Ebola, Zika, MERS and the Novichok attacks in Salisbury – she was appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England in July 2019 and served through the Covid-19 pandemic until taking up her present role.



She has previously served on the UK's Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, and the Expert Advisory Group on the NHS Constitution. Jenny has worked in policy, evaluation and clinical roles in many countries including Pakistan, Albania, India, Brazil and New Zealand. In addition to a medical degree, she holds formal qualifications in pharmacology, business administration, health economics and strategic health service planning.



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Sarah Price **Director for Public Health, NHS England**

Sarah took up the role of Director for Public Health for NHS England in November 2023 with a remit to work with systems, regions and NHSE alongside partners like DHSC, UKHSA, FPH and ADPH to strengthen public health support on key health agendas, take pressure off health and care services through early intervention, and improve outcomes for patients and residents. Sarah also leads on professional development for public health within the NHS.

Sarah was in Greater Manchester for almost seven years, part of the devolution team as Executive Lead for Population Health and Commissioning overseeing a £30m programme of investment to improve health outcomes. Sarah stepped up to Chief Officer through the pandemic and finished her time in Greater Manchester as Deputy Chief Executive for the ICB.

Sarah was the Chief Officer at Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group for four years where she championed the development of new models of care for people in Haringey and changed the way key services are commissioned focussing on outcomes.

Sarah was the first non-medical Director of Public Health in London working in east London, then as Director of Public Health for both Islington Primary Care Trust and Council from 2003.



Dr Will Welfare **Director of Health Protection in Regions, UK Health Security Agency**

Will Welfare is a Consultant in Health Protection and Director of Health Protection in Regions within the Chief Medical Advisor's Group of the UK Health Security Agency.

The Health Protection in Regions Directorate is made up of the nine regional teams across England, Field Services, Border Health, and Programmed Delivery Unit. Will is the Deputy Caldicott Guardian for the UKHSA.

Will has a particular interest in public health incident response. He has been one of the UKHSA/PHE Incident Directors for a range of incidents including Covid-19, Mpox and zoonotic flu.





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Dr Tom Irving **Public Health Specialty Registrar**

Dr Tom Irving is a Specialty Registrar in Public Health working in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, currently based in NHS England's south east Screening and Immunisations Team.

During the pandemic, he had responsibility for the Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies' (SAGE) hugely influential modelling subcommittee, SPI-M. Prior to this he has held a range of data science leadership roles in central government, including as the Head of Health Protection Analysis in the Department of Health and Social Care, being the Cabinet Secretary's Lead Advisor on Civil Service diversity and inclusion analysis and developing HMRC's first predictive analytics tool to reduce tax losses from corporate insolvency. He has a PhD on meningococcal disease in sub-Saharan Africa.

