



Training using the Combined Programme

The Combined Programme

Some trainees can join the public health specialist training programme having previously undertaken training or gained experience in posts that weren't prospectively approved by the GMC. The *Combined Programme*¹ (combining retrospective and prospective elements) provides a pathway through which this previous experience can be recognised and lead to less than the indicative training time spent in an approved programme.

For public health, the trainee can enter into an approved training programme above the usual entry point² if they have already completed DFPH and have gained a number of learning outcomes. They go on to complete the remainder of the programme within approved posts. For example, a trainee could be recruited into ST3, having demonstrated through their previous training and/or experience that they hold the competencies we would expect a trainee to hold at the end of ST2.

Once appointed onto an approved training programme, the training of those on a Combined Programme is managed following the same processes as a standard CCT trainee. These trainees can make an application for entry to the specialist register, at the completion of the Combined Programme.

Identifying suitable trainees

All trainees with DFPH should be considered for the Combined Programme. An assessment of previous experience should be made with particular reference to learning outcomes already covered. There is not a specified number that must have been previously covered but most should have covered about 25% overall.

How to get onto the Combined Programme

The initial decision is taken by the Deanery in discussion with the TPD and trainee. The trainee needs to state at enrolment with FPH they are applying to join the Combined Programme. The TPD may wish to discuss with the Faculty's Director of Training for Registration in advance.

1 This replaces the term CESR-CP and applies to GMC and UKPHR routes

2 Normally ST1. Trainees with pre-existing MPH can enter at ST2 but remain on the standard programme

Once FPH has approved enrolment onto the Combined Programme they remain on this pathway. GMC approval to join the Combined Programme is no longer required. Appointment to the appropriate level is dependent on the following:

- **ST3:** a trainee has passed DFPH examination, normally within the last seven years, and achieved a significant proportion of learning outcomes (~25%).
- **ST4:** a trainee has passed MFPH examination, normally within the last seven years. They should have normally achieved around 50% of the learning outcomes including all in Phase 1
- **ST5** exceptionally if a trainee has all exams and most LOs and just needs a top-up in a small number of areas.

Requirements during training

The training programme should make an assessment of what Learning Outcomes and Exams have already been covered before enrolment. The grid in Appendix 2 should be completed and submitted at enrolment. After enrolment the LOs that have been fully covered can be signed off in the ePortfolio once access has been granted. The registrar will work through the remaining LOs in the normal way but can use evidence from previous work in support of other LOs, even if there was not enough to sign off completely at outset.

Registrars following the CP route will follow the public health [Curriculum - FPH](#) and be required to have signed off remaining LOs and to have passed the outstanding exams ([the Diplomate \(DFPH\) and Final Membership Examination \(MFPH\) - FPH](#)). However, there is no minimum time that a registrar must spend on the Combined Programme. Progress is monitored via the ARCP process in the same way as registrars following a standard CCT route.

Requirements at the end of training

Training is complete when all Learning Outcomes, exams and assessments are signed off. We would expect there normally to be at least two ARCPs.

FPH will recommend entry to the specialist register (GMC and UKPHR) in the same way as the standard programme.

Further information

- For GMC applicants more guidance is at [GMC Council 180107 \(gmc-uk.org\)](http://gmc-uk.org)
- Gold Guide at [Gold Guide - 9th Edition - Conference Of Postgraduate Medical Deans \(copmed.org.uk\)](http://copmed.org.uk)
- Otherwise educ@fph.org.uk

Appendix 1: Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

Deanery

- The HoS/TPD is responsible for identifying potential applicants to the CP and initiating a discussion between the Trainee, Educational Supervisor and TPD on suitability.
- FP can be contacted at this stage to discuss criteria, eligibility and processes.
- Before enrolling the Trainee needs to work with the Educational Supervisor and TPD to identify completed Learning Outcomes.
- A signed updated grid (please see Appendix 2) is provided with the enrolment form to demonstrate compliance with the CP eligibility.
- After enrolment, the LOs that have been fully covered can be signed off in the ePortfolio once access has been granted. The competency grid (Appendix 2) should be added as the evidence against the claimed competences. Primary evidence (of work done prior to joining the programme) is not required.
- At the end of training, application is made to FPH to confirm to the regulator completion of training.

Faculty of Public Health

- FPH is responsible for enrolling trainees on the CP and will provide guidance through Director of Training for Registration.
- FPH is responsible for checking completion of training and notifying the regulators. For UKPHR and GMC the process is the same as standard route trainees.

GMC

- There are no new procedures for UKPHR in adding to the specialist register.

UKPHR

- There are no new procedures for UKPHR in adding to the specialist register.

Appendix 2: Learning Outcome Grid for Enrolment

Key to LO progress	No evidence	Partial evidence	Full evidence
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KA 1	KA 2	KA 3	KA 4	KA 5	KA 6	KA 7	KA 8	KA 9	KA 10
1.1	2.1	3.1 ¹	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1 ¹	8.1 ¹	9.1	10.1
1.2	2.2	3.2 ¹	4.2	5.2	6.2	7.2	8.2	9.2	10.2
	2.3	3.3 ¹	4.3	5.3	6.3	7.3		9.3	10.3
1.4	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.4	
1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5
1.6	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.6	6.6	7.6	8.6	9.6	10.6
1.7	2.7	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.7	7.7	8.7	9.7	10.7
1.8			4.8		6.8	7.8	8.8	9.8	10.8
			4.9		6.9		8.9	9.9	10.9
			4.10					9.10	10.10
			4.11					9.11	10.11
									10.12

Total number of Learning outcomes =		
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Total LOs with no evidence =
Total LOs with minimal evidence =
Total LOs with partial evidence =
Total LOs with full evidence =

Signature of the Head of School/
Training Programme Director