

April 2015

Factsheet Four:

UK-wide, inclusive and cost effective

The UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) operates throughout **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.**

A **Consultative Forum** is representative of national and local governments, employers, Public Health England and its equivalents in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, appropriate statutory and professional bodies and public interest groups.

Two-way communication and exchange of feedback, intelligence and ideas through the medium of this Consultative Forum is led by UKPHR's Board.

UKPHR also promotes two-way communication and exchange of feedback, intelligence and ideas with the public, other regulators and its own registrants.

UKPHR recognises the importance of engaging effectively with the public. Members of the public will engage in communities, groups and on a one-to-one basis with registrants, and they are able to seek information about registrants from UKPHR directly.

Local scheme co-ordinators in what are highly decentralised local practitioner registration schemes help shape UKPHR's thinking and practice on public engagement, as do key public health stakeholders such as the UK's Faculty of Public Health (the Faculty), Local Government Association and Royal Society for Public Health.

UKPHR engages with **employers** of the public health workforce and **commissioners** of their services. This is so as to ensure that UKPHR has their support for its critical work assuring the competence of public health specialists and practitioners and so that they formally recognise registration in their recruitment and staff development processes.

In all cases, it is important for UKPHR to foster understanding of the need for regulation across such a large and diverse public health workforce.

UKPHR's **Code of Conduct** makes clear that the health, safety and wellbeing of the public, including service users, must be the prime concern of all public health professionals.

Entry onto the register is only possible when UKPHR has satisfied itself of the individual's professional *competence*.

Development of public health competencies and regular contact with the Faculty, and relevant statutory regulators regarding curriculum and training programmes ensure that equivalence is maintained within the public health specialist leadership group as a whole. This is so whether registration is achieved by the **standard entry route** (on completion of the Specialty Training Programme which includes passing the Faculty's two-part examination) or the **portfolio assessment route**.

An impressive and extensive network of assessors, co-ordinators, moderators, mentors and verifiers support the work of UKPHR, mostly as volunteers. This results in a network of skilled and knowledgeable people supporting the work of a small paid staff and a Board of 12 unpaid Directors. It makes for remarkably good value for money.

As the sole, unique voluntary register for public health, UKPHR strongly believes that there are major advantages in it providing a single regulatory home for the entire public health workforce. These include:

- A multi-disciplinary public health workforce which is 'quality assured' through the competency approach to registration;
- A multi-disciplinary workforce focused on much more than health care alone but the wider public health concerns identified by numerous past reports including *Acheson, Black, Marmot* and *Wanless*;
- Development and training opportunities which can be identified and met collaboratively;
- Maintenance of a source of information about the public health workforce for policy-makers, Universities, Health Education England, employers and the public;
- A raised and credible profile for the public health workforce;
- Assurance of public protection based on a common approach to competence;
- Career pathways made more visible and attainable for all registrants.

For further information or if you wish to contact the UKPHR for any other reason
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