

April 2015

Factsheet Three:

The benefits of UKPHR registration

The UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) holds a register ¹ of public health professionals, and therefore has the means to identify, raise the profile of and communicate with the public health workforce. It is independent of all governments and sectional interests.

UKPHR operates in the public interest. It is an independent regulator and its operational focus is on recognising and upholding the professional standards ² of *competence* of those who work in public health and are regulated as public health professionals. In this way, public protection is assured and public confidence in the public health workforce is strengthened.

UKPHR has a single, overriding objective: to promote public safety and public confidence in public health practice in the UK through independent regulation.

UKPHR seeks to achieve its objective by:

- Working with partners setting and promoting standards for admission to and remaining on the register
- Dealing with registrants who fail to meet the necessary standards
- Publishing a register of competent professionals
- Promoting and advancing the **multi-disciplinary** public health profession through supervising the behaviour and conduct of registrants

Commitment to protecting the public and promoting public confidence in public health practice is stated in UKPHR's key governance documents including the **Memorandum and Articles of Association** and the **Standing Orders**.

This commitment is practically achieved by:

- Having robust procedures for assessing the fitness for registration of each individual registrant;
- Ensuring that the standards of professional conduct and ethics ³ are complied with;
- Having robust procedures for **fitness to practise** reviews, which ensure thorough and impartial investigation of any concerns, panel hearings where required and the imposition of sanctions in appropriate cases.

¹ The UKPHR is a voluntary register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority

² Set out in the UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) publication *Good Public Health Practice and in UKPHR's Code of Conduct*

³ *ibid*

UKPHR operates a system of re-registration for registrants who have held UKPHR registration for 5 years. However, in line with other regulators we plan to replace this with a full revalidation procedure on a 5-yearly cycle. As part of our renewal, re-registration and, in due course, revalidation processes, all registrants must complete a legal declaration regarding their fitness to practise and provide evidence of completed and ongoing **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** and **appraisal**.

The public health workforce is large and diverse. It is not confined to health services but includes those working in local government, the third or voluntary sector and those working for providers and commissioners of public health services. It is the prime purpose of UKPHR to protect **the public** and give confidence that this broad workforce is appropriately trained, competent and fit to practise.

Confidence in the professional competence of the public health workforce is also important for **employers** of the Public Health workforce and **commissioners and providers** of Public Health services.

The standards UKPHR sets for entry onto its register and the requirements once on the register provide assurance to employers and commissioners – it is evidence of *competence*. Registrants must keep their skills and knowledge up to date including through CPD, maintaining fitness to practise and regular revalidation.

Individual registrants benefit from registration. It represents objective evidence that they have attained appropriate standards of *competence*. Registration brings recognition and status: it gives identified membership of the public health workforce. It aids job satisfaction and assists in public health career progression. It provides the stimulus and support for maintaining that *competence* through constant updating of skills and knowledge.

Registration benefits the public, employers, commissioners, registrants – UKPHR is committed to continuous improvement in public health practice.

An approach to regulation which identifies and removes bad apples, supports professional competence, shares knowledge and disseminates good practice is in the very best tradition of good regulation. It positively promotes professional behaviour that is focused on meeting public health and wellbeing outcomes and reducing health inequalities in our society.

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