

*Factsheet One:*

## Introducing the UK Public Health Register

The main purpose of the regulation of professionals, including public health professionals, is to *protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public*<sup>i</sup>. This is achieved by ensuring professionals are competent, sufficiently experienced and adhere to agreed standards of ethical practice.

The purpose of the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) is to provide public assurance for the provision of a competent workforce that contributes to a high quality public health service.

UKPHR holds a register<sup>ii</sup> 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.

In 2003 UKPHR was set up to regulate all multi-disciplinary public health specialists (from backgrounds other than medicine and dentistry). From April 2011 the register also started to regulate public health practitioners.

UKPHR holds the register for a single professional group encompassing the whole of public health practice. The **multi-disciplinary** nature of this group is central to the philosophy which underpins the register.

UKPHR exists as a regulator for *all public health professionals*, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds acting as the primary regulator.

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

UKPHR recognises the multi-disciplinary skills and competencies and the diversity of those who practise in the many areas of public health.

As part of achieving its objective, UKPHR has a role to ensure that training is fit for purpose and to set the standards for professionals to adhere to.

This is done in conjunction with the UK's Faculty of Public Health (The Faculty), in relation to professional curriculum, training and qualifications, and the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council in respect of their statutory regulation of public health doctors and dentists respectively.

These standards define a clear knowledge base which underpins the whole of public health practice. UKPHR accepts *specialist applicants* who have completed the Faculty's Specialty Training Programme and *specialist and practitioner applicants* who demonstrate their skills and knowledge in a portfolio.

UKPHR provides guidance for applicants on building their portfolios and guidance for the assessors who assess them.

Full details of the requirements for UKPHR registration are available on our website: [www.ukphr.org](http://www.ukphr.org)

The Faculty's curriculum is available on its website: [www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk)

Registration is designed to be inclusive, enabling those already established in public health, from whatever background, to demonstrate their competence and have their specialist or practitioner status recognised.

The **Registrar** has oversight of UKPHR's assessors, fitness to practise panellists, members of the Registration Panel and Registration Approvals Committee. The Registrar's duties and procedures are independent of UKPHR's Board.

UKPHR's **Board** oversees the financial, governance and housekeeping aspects of the organisation. The independence of the Board is assured in the governance arrangements. As in other healthcare regulators, lay members have specific functions assuring accountability and promoting public confidence.

A Registration Panel and a Registration Approvals Committee determine applications for registration. A Fitness to Practise Panel has responsibility for determining fitness to practise issues.

UKPHR receives and gives feedback through its UK-wide **Consultative Forum**, which contains representatives of a wide range of stakeholders.

In 2015 UKPHR achieved registration as a charity in England and Wales, Registered No. 116289, and in Scotland, Registered No. SC045877.

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

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<sup>i</sup> This is referred to as the Public Protection Duty. The purpose of regulation of professionals is currently being consulted on as part of the Law Commission review of the regulation of healthcare professionals found at [http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/areas/Healthcare\\_professions.htm](http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/areas/Healthcare_professions.htm). The Consultation is seeking to expand the purpose of regulation to include the public protection duty and also a duty to maintain professional reputation and ensuring proper standards are applied for safe and effective practice.

<sup>ii</sup> The UKPHR is a voluntary register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority