



UKPHR

Public Health Register

Protecting the public – improving practice

17 May 2017

Dear UK Directors of Public Health

The UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) and the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) are united in their belief that a registered public health practitioner workforce and its continued professional development are crucial for the delivery of effective public health outcomes.

The FPH and UKPHR strongly advocate for all Directors of Public Health to:

- Support local practitioner registration, and if no scheme exists in your locality, lobby for its establishment;
- Support your public health teams to maintain their continuing professional development through a demonstrable scheme, such as that provided through membership of the FPH;
- Refer to UKPHR practitioner registration and FPH membership within job descriptions.

Public health practitioners are key members of the public health workforce.

They have tremendous influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations. They work across the full breadth of public health from health improvement and health protection, to health information, community development and healthcare public health. They work in all settings: public service, voluntary and private sectors. They work in commissioning and management roles, engage communities in capacity building and link through to the wider workforce.

Across the UK, thousands of practitioners work to protect and improve the health and well-being of communities and individuals and reduce inequities. They are responsible for some of the most important health and social gains in the UK. Their roles are multidisciplinary and they are responsible for individual and population level interventions including sensitive and deeply personal issues. Registration as a practitioner requires demonstration, and maintenance of competence in public health practice. It should be important for this workforce to be quality assured.

Registration provides quality assurance, as well as public protection and recognition of achievement:

- **Employers and commissioners** of public health services benefit through relying on a process which meets their due diligence requirements. Registration signals that the practitioner is competent and fully understands the essentials of the public health role. We want more employers and commissioners to specify that registration is a required quality standard.
- The **public** benefits through knowing that competence, integrity and accountability in public health practice is assured, it can be checked for on a public register – and there is someone to complain to if things go wrong.
- **Individual registrants** benefit through securing objective recognition of their achievements, maintaining and enhancing their competence and developing future career options.

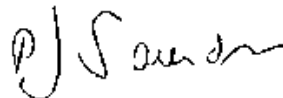
We hope you find this helpful. We welcome your feedback.

For further information on any of the above please contact FPH at membership@fph.org.uk or UKPHR at register@ukphr.org

Yours faithfully



John Middleton
President
UK Faculty of Public Health



Patrick Saunders
Chair
UK Public Health Register