



The Association of Directors of Public Health

eDPH May, 2024

James Williams | DPH Medway

It is with great sadness that we share the news that James Williams has passed away following a short illness. James, who was Director of Public Health for Medway, was actively involved with ADPH at both a regional and national level and was a valued member of two of our policy advisory groups. James will be sorely missed throughout the public health community and beyond, and our thoughts are very much with his family, friends, and colleagues.

ADPH Activity

Membership News | April and May

We are delighted to announce the following membership welcomes and updates:

DsPH: Alice Wiseman (DPH Gateshead and Newcastle), Cordelle Ofori (DPH Manchester), David Whiting (Interim DPH Medway), Emmeline Watkins (Acting DPH Peterborough), Heema Shukla (Interim DPH Bracknell Forest), Helen Onions (Interim DPH Telford and Wrekin), Jonas Thompson-McCormick (Interim DPH Windsor and Maidenhead), Jyoti Atri (DPH Essex), Laura MacLehose (Acting DPH Kingston), Tessa Lindfield (DPH Slough), Val Thomas (Acting DPH Cambridgeshire)

Associates: Fiona Hamilton (CPH Salford), Julie Parker-Walton (CPH Sunderland), May Moonan (Deputy DPH Salford), Rob Davies (CPH Herefordshire), Shirley Plenderleith (Assistant DPH North Northamptonshire)

Alumni: David Regan, Elizabeth Shassere, Judith Curson, Judith Hooper, Lucy Wightman, Tamara Djuretic

Commercial Determinants of Health (CDOH) | CDOH Essentials | 29th April

Alice Wiseman (ADPH Vice President), spoke at the launch of a new [set of materials](#), developed by public health registrar Anna Brook with Katherine Körner, May van Schalkwyk and Mark Petticrew, through the [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Commercial Determinants Research Group](#). [CDOH Essentials](#) has been endorsed by ADPH as part of our [CDOH project](#) and is aimed at public health professionals to use to plan and run an introductory workshop or briefing session on CDOH for both public health teams and key internal partners within local authorities.

ADPH gives evidence at Tobacco and Vapes Bill Committee

At the end of April, ADPH President Greg Fell, gave [evidence](#) at the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Committee alongside Councillor David Fothergill, Chairman of the [LGA Community and Wellbeing Board](#). Greg answered questions on a range of topics including licensing, marketing, and the health impacts of smoking.

ADPH AGM | 20th May

Earlier this month we presented ADPH's [Annual Review for 2023/24](#), which includes latest membership statistics and an overview of each of our work programmes. Thanks to contributions from our members and strong partnerships with a wide range of organisations, we have continued to advocate strongly for long-term solutions to create healthy environments for all over the past 12 months. The needs of our members are at the heart of all our work, which includes a focus on our three priority areas: Commercial

Determinants of Health, Healthy Places, and Infants, Children and Young People.

We also welcomed new Board Members, Matt Ashton (DPH Liverpool) and Julia Weldon (DPH Hull) and took the opportunity to thank outgoing Board Members Rupert Suckling (ADPH Alumni) and Helen Atkinson (DPH Portsmouth) for their significant contribution to ADPH's work.

Infants, Children, and Young People (ICYP) Workshop | Registrations open!

As part of our current [ICYP project](#) focusing on adversity, trauma, and resilience (ATR), we will be holding a workshop on Tuesday 25th June (10:00-12:00) for ADPH members and professionals working in the children's sector. The [workshop](#) will be chaired by our Policy Lead for Children and Young People, Sarah Muckle (DPH Bradford), with sessions delivered by Kate Stanley, Chief Executive of [FrameWorks UK](#), around framing, mindsets, and key principles from research on effective communication messaging. If you would like to register to attend, please [contact us](#) stating your role title and organisation.

Annual Report Celebration | Shortlist

At our Annual Workshop for Directors of Public Health, our Chief Executive, Nicola Close [presented highlights](#) from this year's submissions to our [Annual Report Celebration](#).

ADPH Consultation Scan

Every week, we circulate a consultation scan which aims to capture all calls for evidence and consultations that have relevance to public health. This is inclusive of wider determinants, such as housing, transport, education etc. If you would like to join the circulation list, please [contact us](#).

ADPH/Panoramic Associates | Public Health Spotlight Series

We are working with [Panoramic Associates](#) to produce a video podcast series featuring interviews with Directors of Public Health. The series will shed light on the vital role DsPH play in our communities and aims to inspire anyone aspiring to become a DPH. Whether you're considering the next steps in your career, or simply interested to learn more about the careers of DsPH, this series is for you! Follow our social media accounts for updates and details of the first episode, which will be posted on our [website](#) and [Panoramic's YouTube channel](#).

ADPH in the news

This month has been another busy one for ADPH in the media:

- Alice Wiseman was interviewed by [BBC Radio 4's Food Programme](#) in a special episode on child obesity.
- Our [press release](#) marking the first anniversary of the gambling white paper was covered in the [BMJ's 'Seven Days in Medicine'](#).
- The [Inequalities in Health Alliance](#) published a [blog by Greg Fell](#) on the role local authorities have in protecting and promoting good health.
- The MJ published an [article](#) by Greg making the case for a new PH Act.
- Various publications, including [UK Times](#) and [Nursing Times](#) covered our [response](#) to the [DHSC announcement](#) about the expansion of naloxone availability and the new the ten-year drugs and alcohol workforce plan.
- The [New Statesman](#) has published a piece by Alice on how to create a society where not smoking is the norm.

Meet our Members



Dona Milne | Director of Public Health | Scotland

As a Director of Public Health in Scotland, Dona is also Executive Director of [NHS Lothian](#) Health Board with both public health and corporate responsibilities and is responsible for all public health functions locally.

Dona started her career specialising in reproductive health and children and young people but developed expertise across the determinants of health and improving life circumstances. With a firm belief that to be effective, this work requires place-based, partnership working with non-NHS colleagues, in Lothian, Dona and her team have created Partnership and Place teams who take a health in all policies approach and place significant focus on children and the early years.

One of the things Dona enjoys most about her role is its multi-disciplinary nature. Lothian's staff come from all walks of life which enables them to develop creative responses to local needs using public health expertise with a range of collaborators.

Dona, who has been a DPH since 2018, is also Vice-Chair of the Scottish DsPH Network and contributes to ADPH's wider work sharing evidence and examples of good practice to support cross country and cross government activity on key priorities.

We are delighted to be welcoming Dona as the first contributor to our brand-new monthly guest blog, which will be available to read on our [website](#) from Monday.

News from around the UK

Walsall Council | Walsall partners commit to better mental health through the Prevention Concordat | 14th May

[The Walsall Mental Wellbeing Partnership](#) has reinforced its commitment to enhancing mental health support by signing the national [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health](#). This work, led by [Walsall Council's Public Health team](#), highlights a prevention-focused approach to mental health, aiming to create a fairer and more equitable borough. Key partners in this initiative include the [NHS Black Country Healthcare](#) Foundation Trust, NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board, and the [Walsall Together](#) partnership.

The partnership has already implemented steps to boost mental wellbeing through their ten-year multi-agency Mental Wellbeing Strategy, which emphasises prevention, early



intervention, and building community mental health literacy. The multi-agency partnership has a diverse membership including housing, social care, and a range of community, and voluntary sector organisations from across Walsall. Together, they assess and address mental health needs, offering critical wider support for debt, employment, and housing issues, early.