

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

Public health practitioner [1]

Public health practitioners can have a huge influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations.

Training and qualifications required

Qualifications are likely to vary as a public health practitioner, depending on the nature of the role. An example entry route would be to get a qualification and experience of working in a public health related area. Depending on the specific practitioner role, related qualifications could include a first level degree in Public Health or related area, Nursing, Environmental Health, or Sport and Exercise. A degree apprenticeship standard for public health practitioners has been approved for delivery.

Expected working hours and salary range

NHS staff usually work 37.5 hours per week but terms and conditions for non-NHS employers and contractors vary. You may be asked to work some evenings and weekends. Most jobs in the NHS are covered by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. Many public health practitioners are employed outside the NHS, especially in local authorities or voluntary organisations. Salaries can vary widely, but start at around £21,000.

Desirable skills and values

Some of the skills and qualities you'll need as a public health practitioner include well developed people skills, an ability to value difference and diversity, creativity, analysing and interpreting information, creating marketing materials, writing publications and reports and making recommendations about how services could be delivered.

Prospects

Public health practitioners may develop their skills and expertise through more senior practitioner roles or go into management, service lead roles or leadership positions.

Related roles

- Public health nurse [2]
- School nurse [3]
- Health visitor [4]
- Project manager [5]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-practitioner> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/school-nurse> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management/roles-management/project-manager>