

## Local government

This page provides information about how local government contributes to people's health and wellbeing. It also lists some of the public health roles and career opportunities available in local government.



Local authorities have always had a role in public health. They are responsible for many services that can have an impact on the health and wellbeing of the local population.

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For example, the creation of cycle routes can encourage healthier lifestyles, the introduction of lower speed limits can reduce road casualties, recycling can benefit the environment, tourism can improve the local economy.

Here are some other local government services that can influence the health and wellbeing of the local population:

- library provision, local leisure centres, social services, sheltered housing, licensing pubs and clubs
- community centres, local parishes, neighbourhood wardens
- trading standards, consumer and benefits advice; issuing of bus passes for the elderly and unemployed
- school provision, day centres, play centres, adult learning opportunities
- environmental health, highways management, road speed limits, street lighting, cycle routes, pedestrian-only zones, CCTV monitoring provision
- air quality monitoring, parks and open spaces, conservation initiatives, allotments in communities
- grants for solar panels, waste disposal and recycling, home insulation, tackling climate change

## Pay in local government

Find out more about pay in local government [1].

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This page has been developed in collaboration with the Local Government Association.

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Find out more about public health roles in local government:

- England

Expand / collapse

Local authorities in England are employers of the following?core public health roles [2]:

- director of public health [3]
- consultants and specialists [4]
- knowledge and intelligence professionals [5]
- public health nurses [6]
- environmental health professionals [7]
- public health practitioners [8]
- public health managers [9]?
- Other public health roles

Many additional local authority staff have public health aspects to their role, even if they would not consider themselves a part of the core public health workforce. They may work in areas such as:

- housing
- health and care
- education
- leisure
- environmental conservation
- trading standards
- planning and licensing
- finance
- policy and planning
- administration
- information technology

Find out more about this wider public health workforce [10] and the contribution they can make to people's health.

- Wales

Expand / collapse

Local authorities in Wales are employers of the following core public health roles [2]:

- knowledge and intelligence professionals [11]
- public health nurses [6]
- environmental health professionals [7]
- local authority emergency planners
- other public health roles

Local authorities in Wales also employ public health practitioners [8] and public health managers [9] (who may lead specific public health programmes).

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- housing
- health and care
- education
- leisure
- environmental conservation
- trading standards
- planning and licensing
- finance
- policy and planning
- administration
- information technology

Find out more about this wider public health workforce? [10] and the contribution they can make to people's health

- Scotland

Expand / collapse

Local authorities in Scotland are employers of the following core public health roles [2]:

- health visitors [12]
- school nurses [13]
- environmental health professionals [7]?

Many additional local authority staff have public health aspects to their role, even if they would not consider themselves a part of the core public health workforce. They may work in areas such as:

- housing
- health and care
- education
- leisure
- environmental conservation
- trading standards

- planning and licensing
- finance
- policy and planning
- administration
- information technology

Find out more about this?wider public health workforce [10]?and the contribution they can make to people's health.

- Northern Ireland

Expand / collapse

Local authorities in Northern Ireland are an employer of the following core public health roles:

- environmental health professionals [7]

## Partner logos



**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-public-health/employers-public-health-staff/local-government>

### Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-public-health/employers-public-health-staff/local-government/pay-rates-local>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-public-health/public-health-workforce-explained/core-public-health-workforce>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/director-public-health>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-consultants-and-specialists>
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health-knowledge-and-intelligence-professionals>
- [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-nurse>
- [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/environmental-health-professional>
- [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-practitioner>
- [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-manager>
- [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-public-health/public-health-workforce-explained/wider-public-health-workforce>
- [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-knowledge-and-intelligence-professional>
- [12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/health-visitor>
- [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/school-nurse>
- [14] <http://www.local.gov.uk/>
- [15] <https://www.rsph.org.uk/>