

Public health consultants and specialists

Public health specialists and consultants help people and communities maximise their potential for a healthy, happy and productive life, so they can live healthier for longer.

You'll focus on health at a population level, looking at ways to make communities and environments healthier, reducing ill-health and tackling health inequalities.

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[Download transcript](#) ^[3]

Life as a public health specialist and consultant

Public health specialists and consultants are strategists, senior managers or senior scientists in public health. You'll need skills and knowledge in health protection, health improvement and healthcare public health but, in practice, you may specialise in one area.

Public health specialists come from a wide range of backgrounds, and may or may not hold a medical degree.

You could be employed in different sectors, including local government, central government or its executive agencies, the NHS, universities, the defence services, the private sector or the voluntary and social enterprise sector.

Daniel Flecknoe

Specialty registrar in public health

The training programme is fantastic, because as well as giving you the opportunity to experience a lot of different sorts of public health work, you also have a certain freedom to pursue your personal interests, so long as you can demonstrate that you are achieving the required competencies.

[Read Daniel's story](#) ^[4]

As a public health specialist or consultant, you'll work with a range of organisations to:

- deal with complex public health issues
- either lead or work with senior colleagues to plan and deliver policies and programmes ('interventions') that aim to influence the health of groups of people ('populations') at local, regional and national levels
- plan and lead the evaluation of such programmes
- provide professional, evidence-based and ethical advice to guide the commissioning of services, ensuring that they are high-quality, clinically safe, cost-effective, and that they will improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across primary care [5], secondary care [6], and social care
- lead on gathering and interpreting information

One area you could specialise in is epidemiology [7], leading on projects to tackle outbreaks of disease or environmental hazards. You'll investigate their origins, assess the relative effectiveness and cost of different approaches to tackling them, and make recommendations for action. This type of work is currently very high profile, given the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Your work will have a large management and leadership element, and you'll be responsible for departmental budgets, managing staff, delivering core training and commissioning research projects.

How much can I earn?

As a specialist working at consultant level in the NHS, your salary will be between £105,504 and £139,882.

If you choose specialty training as a route to consultant level, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £49,909 during your training.

How about the benefits?

- making a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- working anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement

Must-have skills

- flexibility to cope with multiple and changing demands
- ability to meet tight deadlines
- high level of intellectual rigour
- political awareness, tact and diplomacy
- ability to understand a range of cultures
- ability to work across organisational and geographic boundaries
- ability to advise, challenge and advocate
- negotiation and motivation skills
- ability to influence without having direct authority.

The [Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework \(PHSKF\)](#) ^[8] describes the functions and activities carried out by people working to protect and promote the public's health across the UK.

Entry requirements

You can become a public health specialist from a wide variety of backgrounds including medicine, dentistry, nursing, research, teaching, science and environmental health.

The specialty training programme is open to non-medical and medical applicants. It usually lasts five years and you may be able to train part-time, for example, for health reasons or due to caring responsibilities. You will need to have one of the following:

- a first degree at 1st or 2:1
- a Master's or PhD
- a degree in medicine or equivalent medical qualification

What are my chances of starting a career in public health?

In 2024, there were 1508 applications for 105 NHS specialty training places.

How to become a public health specialist and consultant

To hold professional registration as a public health specialist, you'll need to go through an approved programme of study or a portfolio route. To be a consultant in public health, you must also hold a professional registration at public health specialist level with either the General Medical Council (GMC), the General Dental Council (GDC) or the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) as appropriate.

See the [UKPHR](#) ^[9] and [Faculty of Public Health](#) ^[10] websites for more information on specialist registration.

Where a career as a public health specialist and consultant can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as dental public health, infectious diseases and hazards ([epidemiology](#) ^[7]) or health improvement
- teach public health students or postgraduate students in training
- strategic and leadership positions
- get involved in research at universities, in the NHS or private sector

- **Live NHS vacancies**

You can see the latest NHS public health specialist vacancies below. Non-NHS vacancies are also available on the [Civil Service Careers website](#) ^[11] and on council, private and voluntary sector websites.

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Public Health Specialist**

Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Salary:

£46142.00 to £48226.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wiltshire Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[12]

- **Public Health Consultant**

Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Salary:

£88168.00 to £101677.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottingham City Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

^[13]

- **Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine**

Oxford, OX1 1ND

Salary:

£91615.00 to £103835.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxfordshire County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine**

London, NW1 2PG

Salary:

£99808.00 to £113803.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine**

London, NW1 2PG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Public Health/Consultant in Public Health Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Public Health Assistant**

Folkestone, CT20 1SZ

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Public Health Practitioner**

Aberaeron, SA46 0DY

Salary:

£39263.00 to £47280.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[18]

- **Public Health Dietitian**

Cwmbran, NP44 3HR

Salary:

£39263.00 to £47280.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [19]

- **Public Health Intelligence Analyst**

Swindon, SN1 2JG

Salary:

£39513.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swindon Borough Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Intelligence Analyst job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [20]

- **Principal Public Health Practitioner**

Bronllys, near Brecon, LD3 0LE

Salary:

£56514.00 to £63623.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Powys Teaching Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Public Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [21]

- **Public Health Practitioner HCC621937**

Winchester, SO23 8UB

Salary:

£40643.00 to £45077.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Practitioner HCC621937 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine - Public Health Services**

Guernsey, GY4 6UU

Salary:

£105750.00 to £142178.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

States of Guernsey

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine - Public Health Services job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Public Health Principal - Public Mental Health and Healthy Ageing**

Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

Salary:

£46731.00 to £50788.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Milton Keynes Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Principal - Public Mental Health and Healthy Ageing job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor**

Tutbury, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9NA

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor**

Tutbury, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9NA

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Public Health Researcher (Gambling Prevention)**

Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Salary:

£48527.00 to £55532.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Public Health Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Researcher \(Gambling Prevention\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Public Health and Clinical Fellow**

London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Salisbury, NW9 5EQ

Salary:

£49909.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health and Clinical Fellow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Specialist Public Health Practitioner – Youth Justice Team and PRUs**

London, CR4 3HL

Salary:

£53751.00 to £60651.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central London Community Health Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Public Health Practitioner – Youth Justice Team and PRUs job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Strategic Partnership Manager, Healthcare Public Health**

Llanfairfechan/Mold, LL33 0HH

Salary:

£65424.00 to £76021.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Strategic Partnership Manager, Healthcare Public Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **All Wales AHP Public Health & Prevention Lead**

Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Salary:

£65424.00 to £76021.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Public Health Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Wales AHP Public Health & Prevention Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- ***INTERNAL MPFT ONLY* Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor**

Tutbury, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9NA

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for *INTERNAL MPFT ONLY* Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Senior Public Health Practitioner Children and Families HCC621936**

Winchester, SO23 8UB

Salary:

£48948.00 to £54423.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hampshire County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Public Health Practitioner Children and Families HCC621936 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Public Health Assistant -Early Years 0-5 years**

Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5HU

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Assistant -Early Years 0-5 years job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Safeguarding & Public Protection Business Team Administrator**

Wrexham, LL13 7TD

Salary:

£25313.00 to £26999.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Safeguarding & Public Protection Business Team Administrator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Public and Patient Involvement Engagement Officer (XN06)**

Leeds, LS9 7TF

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public and Patient Involvement Engagement Officer \(XN06\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Pelvic Health Specialist Midwife**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pelvic Health Specialist Midwife job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Primary Care Mental Health Specialist**

Leeds, LS7 3JX

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Primary Care Mental Health Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Specialist Physiotherapist - Specialist Pelvic Health**

Burton, DE14 3NT

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist - Specialist Pelvic Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Consultant Occupational Health Physician**

London, W10 6DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central London Community Health Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Occupational Health Physician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **CAMH Specialist Mental Health Practitioner**

London, TW7 6AF

Salary:

£53751.00 to £60651.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West London NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for CAMH Specialist Mental Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner**

Truro, TR1 2JA

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being a public health specialist or consultant, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

- [Faculty of Public Health](#) ^[43]
- [Faculty of Public Health job descriptions](#) ^[44]
- [Public Health Register](#) ^[45]
- [British Society of Community Dentistry \(BASCD\)](#) ^[46]
- [General Dental Council – Specialist Lists](#) ^[47]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Public health knowledge and intelligence professional](#) ^[48]
- [Public health manager](#) ^[49]
- [Dentist](#) ^[50]
- [Director of public health](#) ^[51]

Partner logos

Faculty of Public Health ^[43]

Local Government Association ^[52]

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