

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

- **Consultant in Public Health Infection**

Bristol, BS1 6EH

Salary:

£91342.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Public Health Infection job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Environmental Public Health Practitioner**

Birmingham, Leeds, London, Liverpool, E14 4PU

Salary:

£31997.00 to £43552.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Environmental Public Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Dietetic Assistant - Public Health**

St Asaph, LL17 0JD

Salary:

£24433.00 to £26060.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dietetic Assistant - Public Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

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

Tutbury, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9NA

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

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

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Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health 0-19 Practitioner - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Public Health Dietetic Support Worker**

Agreed on appointment, CF48 1BZ

Salary:

£24433.00 to £26060.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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

- **Public Health Practitioner - Emotional Wellbeing Adults**

Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Salary:

£38626.00 to £40476.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wiltshire Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Practitioner - Emotional Wellbeing Adults job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Public Health Nursing Infant Feeding Lead**

Bromley, BR60JA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bromley Healthcare CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Nursing Infant Feeding Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Principal Public Health Practitioner Educational Settings**

Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Salary:

£63150.00 to £73379.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Public Health Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Public Health Practitioner Educational Settings job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Principal Public Health Practitioner First 1000 Days**

Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Salary:

£63150.00 to £73379.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Public Health Wales

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Public Health Practitioner First 1000 Days job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Patient & Public, Involvement and Engagement Lead**

Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QG

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient & Public, Involvement and Engagement Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Manager**

London, E1 4UJ

Salary:

£54320.00 to £60981.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Manager job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Service Manager for Sexual Safety, Safeguarding & Public Protection**

Nottingham, NG3 6AA

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Service Manager for Sexual Safety, Safeguarding & Public Protection job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Primary Mental Health Specialist**

Gateshead, NE10 8DX

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Primary Mental Health Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Global Health Consultant Microbiologist**

Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, London (Canary Wharf), E14 4PU

Salary:

£88168.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Global Health Consultant Microbiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Health Play Specialist**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£31081.00 to £33665.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Play Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Perinatal Mental Health Specialist Midwife**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Perinatal Mental Health Specialist Midwife job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Senior Physiotherapist - Pelvic Health Specialist**

Exeter, EX2 4UG

Salary:

£43000.00 to £43000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nuffield Health

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Physiotherapist - Pelvic Health Specialist job](#)

[\(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Mental Health Employment Specialist**

Yeovil, BA20 2BN

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mental Health Employment Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Specialist Mental Health Practitioner**

Taunton, TA2 7PQ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Mental Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Specialist Pelvic Health Physiotherapist**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Pelvic Health Physiotherapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Specialist Physiotherapist - Pelvic Health**

Bath, BA1 3NG

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist - Pelvic Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Consultant Occupational Health Physician**

Gloucester, GL1 1LY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Occupational Health Physician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **4357 - Lead Occupational Health Specialist OT**

Barnsley, S75 2EP

Rotherham, S60 2UD

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for 4357 - Lead Occupational Health Specialist OT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Worker**

London, SE5 8AF

Salary:

£54320.00 to £60981.00

Type:

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Employer:

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **CAMHS Specialist Mental Health Practitioner**

Newark, NG24 3HJ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Infant Feeding Specialist Health Visitor**

London, BR1 5EP

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Infant Feeding Specialist Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner**

Grimsby, DN32 0QE

Salary:

£31049.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Navigo Health and Social Care CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Specialist Physiotherapist- Pelvic/Women's Health**

Barrow -in Furness, LA14 4LF

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist- Pelvic/Women's Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Advanced Specialist Mental Health Pharmacist**

Reading, RG30 4EJ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Paediatrician - Community Child Health**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatrician - Community Child Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton**

Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **Highly Specialist Clinical Pharmacist - Womens Health**

Wigan, WN1 2NN

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wrightington Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Clinical Pharmacist - Womens Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **Specialist Physiotherapist-Surrey Downs Health & Care**

Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£51883.00 to £58544.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist-Surrey Downs Health & Care job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **Highly Specialist Clinical Pharmacist - Womens Health**

Wigan, WN1 2NN

Salary:

£46148.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wrightington Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Clinical Pharmacist - Womens Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Mental Health Rehabilitation, Wesham**

Wesham, PR4 3HA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Mental Health Rehabilitation, Wesham job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV**

London, UB1 3HW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

- **Consultant Psychologist - Low Secure Mental Health**

Northampton, NN1 5DG

Salary:

£82831.00 to £88258.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St Andrew's Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychologist - Low Secure Mental Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[49]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist (Mental Health Access Team)**

Winsford, CW7 2AS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist \(Mental Health Access Team\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[50]

- **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](#) ^[51]
- [Faculty of Public Health job descriptions](#) ^[52]
- [Public Health Register](#) ^[53]
- [British Society of Community Dentistry \(BASCD\)](#) ^[54]
- [General Dental Council – Specialist Lists](#) ^[55]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Public health knowledge and intelligence professional](#) ^[56]
- [Public health manager](#) ^[57]
- [Dentist](#) ^[58]
- [Director of public health](#) ^[59]

Partner logos

Faculty of Public Health _ [51]

Local Government Association _ [60]

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