The East Midlands will be launching a Public Health Practitioner Registration Programme for 2016. This scheme has already successfully launched in 10 areas of the Country and has been well received.

**What is the UKPHR?**

The purpose of the programme is to allow practitioners to become registered with the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR). Dedicated regulator for public health professionals in the United Kingdom, providing professional regulation to public health specialists and public health practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom have a common core of knowledge, and skills.

**Benefits of Practitioner Registration**

Professional registration with the UKPHR brings a wealth of benefits to the individual, organisation and the communities they serve. Benefits include:

* A significant opportunity to become part of a quality assured public health workforce providing clear professional identification.
* The attainment of core standards required to demonstrate safe and competent practice.
* The ability to show current and prospective employers some assurances of quality of work.
* Recognises achievement, success and ongoing development.
* Helps to identify and fill ‘gaps’ within knowledge and competencies.
* Encourages reflective practice and demonstrates commitment.
* Promotes the valuing and recognition of a ‘hidden’ workforce who contribute significantly to the public health agenda.

Once registered practitioners may now also register with the Faculty of Public Health ([**further information available here**](http://www.fph.org.uk/fph_practitioners)). Membership of these organisations provides individuals with the chance:

* to expand beneficial career networks and influence the decision making which will affect their present and future professional lives
* to contribute towards the setting and maintenance of the standards in their profession.

**Who are Public Health Practitioners?**

Public Health Practitioners are key members of the Public Health workforce and can have a great influence on the health and wellbeing of individuals, groups, communities and populations. They work across the full breadth of Public Health from health improvement and health protection, to health information, community development and nutrition, in a wide range of settings from the NHS and local government to the voluntary and private sectors. Practitioners must be working at level 5 (the level of autonomous practice) or above on the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework ([PHSKF](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/public%20health%20skills%20and%20knowledge%20framework.pdf.pdf)) - but below specialist/consultant level, for a minimum of two years to be considered.

**More Information:**

The East Midlands scheme will be launched on ***19thApril 2016 at Leicester Space Centre, LE4 5NS.*** Initially we expect to recruit 2 cohorts of 12 from around the region. It is anticipated that it will take practitioners no more than 12 months to obtain full registration therefore we are likely to select people with minimal or no skills gaps based upon their application. The programme will be open for application and selection via a self-assessment and application form and successful practitioners will develop an evidence based portfolio to demonstrate competence across 4 areas of practice:

1. **Professional and ethical practice** – this should be at the heart of everything a public health practitioner does.
2. **Technical competencies in public health** - covers thee essential knowledge and skills that all public health practitioners need to have.
3. **Application of public health competencies to public health work** – this relates to the specific functions undertaken by public health practitioners.
4. **Underpinning skills and knowledge** – needed by all public health practitioners to act effectively and achieve improvements in population health and wellbeing.

These are all based on the PHSKF (Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework, this is currently under review, however will remain relevant to the Practitioner scheme and further details are available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-skills-and-knowledge-framework-consultations-review)**.**

**Findings from independent evaluation suggest that the processes involved in practitioner registration are valued by practitioners, assessors, verifiers and importantly, managers and employers.**

If you have any questions please contact Maxine Lazzari, Scheme Support Manager at Maxine.lazzari@phe.gov.uk, or phone on 0115 8441366.

Useful websites and further information:

**UKPHR:**

<http://www.ukphr.org/i-want-to-apply-for-registration/practitioner/>

(Public Health Practitioners in the UK)

<http://www.ukphr.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/UKP_UKPHR-leaflet-printer-version-print-as-tablet.pdf>

**Health Careers:**

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-practitioner>