



## What is Public Health?

Public Health is about improving and protecting the health of groups of people rather than about treating individuals.

Public Health consultants must look at the bigger picture and take action to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease, protect and improve general health and improve healthcare services. The 'population' they are working for could be a rural community, an entire city, or the global population.

Public Health offers the chance to get involved in the wider context of health, policy and community engagement. Doctors apply research, communication and clinical skills in public health work.

Public Health in Wales operates within a national as well as a regional context and involves a rich mix of disciplines and professions with real influence on the health agenda. Specialty registrars are able to make a real contribution to improving the health of Wales.

Public Health Wales is an NHS organisation that provides specialist public health advice and public health services in Wales.



## Public Health Work

Public Health work generally falls into the areas of health improvement, health protection or health service improvement.

Health improvement includes action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

This includes looking at the wider determinants of health and lifestyle risk factors and reducing negative effects on health.

Health protection includes communicable disease surveillance and control and providing an emergency response to any incident where the health of the public may be affected.

Health service improvement may include assessing the needs of the population, service planning and development and evaluation.

Epidemiology, health intelligence and research underpin all Public Health activities.



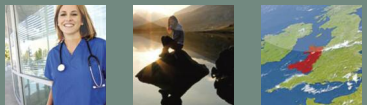
## Public Health Training

Public Health training is a five-year programme split into two phases. Phase one mainly consists of studying for a Masters in Public Health (MPH) and sitting Part A of the Membership of the Faculty of Public Health (MFPH) examination.

In phase two, specialty registrars work within the health protection, health intelligence and health improvement functions of Public Health Wales. They also work within one of Wales' Local Health Boards and undertake Part B of the MFPH examination.

Specialty registrars take part in the all Wales health protection rota after completion of the Part A MFPH examination. They are first on-call in Wales for out-of-hours health protection issues.

Specialty registrars are allocated an educational supervisor and an academic supervisor for the duration of training. Progress through training is assessed through a portfolio of work and the Annual Review of Competency Progression.



**Wales**  
*Succeed and inspire.*