



Biographies of regional and centre directors

Regional directors

Paul Johnstone – North of England

Professor Paul Johnstone was director of public health for NHS North of England and substantively the regional director of public health for Yorkshire and the Humber since 2002.

Paul has worked in many parts of the NHS, as a hospital doctor, GP and manager. He previously volunteered and worked in Pakistan, Sudan and West Indies in refugee and crisis situations.

He then trained in public health in the Oxford Region and London, and worked for the Cochrane Collaboration and Oxford University as an honorary senior lecturer. In 1999 he became director of public health with a chair in public health in Teesside, then as medical director for Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority before taking up the Yorkshire and the Humber post.

Paul has published extensively on management and international public health. He established the International Committee of the Faculty of Public Health and has led a number of national initiatives, most recently as co-chair of a national task force to ensure healthcare public health advice is available to NHS commissioners. Paul is also a visiting professor at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Rashmi Shukla CBE – Midlands and East of England

Dr Rashmi Shukla worked in a national director post in the Public Health England transition team, working closely with local government colleagues to support the transfer of public health functions from primary care trusts to local authorities.

Since 2004 Rashmi held the post of regional director of public health for the West Midlands, leading an integrated public health team across the NHS and the Department of Health. After graduating from Southampton Medical School, Rashmi initially pursued a postgraduate career in hospital medicine and subsequently became interested in prevention and population health improvement and protection, and undertook training in public health in the Trent region.

Rashmi is an experienced public health physician and has been involved nationally in many areas of policy development including planning for emergencies such as pandemic influenza, tobacco control and fluoridation. She is an active member of many national groups and has recently become co-chair for the Sexual Health Forum with Baroness Joyce Gould. She has published articles on health protection, health improvement and health inequalities.

Yvonne Doyle – London

Dr Yvonne Doyle qualified as a doctor in Ireland in 1981. She has worked in the NHS, the private and academic sectors in the UK since 1990 and has 17 years of board level experience as a public health and a medical director.

Her work at leadership level in public health has led to 13 years of close working with local and regional government. In 2010 she was seconded to the Department of Health to support the development of PHE, alongside her public health roles in the South East. In March 2012 she was appointed director of public health for NHS South of England.

As technical adviser to the WHO she led work on European Healthy Cities and has advised the World Economic Forum, the EU and the World Bank on the public health aspects of population ageing. She was also a national lead at the Department of Health on excess seasonal mortality.

Jenny Harries – South of England

Dr Jenny Harries was the joint director of public health for Norfolk County Council and NHS Norfolk and Waveney, and has experienced and led the transition of public health to local authorities at ground level.

After graduating from Birmingham University in pharmacology and medicine, Jenny worked initially in hospital medicine in the UK and New Zealand, with particular experience in medicine for the elderly.

After work abroad Jenny trained and worked in public health in Wales from 1996 to 2007, including positions as the local director of public health for Monmouthshire Local Health Board and the public health consultant lead for the South East Wales Regional Commissioning Unit. She then worked as the joint director of public health for a unitary authority in Swindon before appointment to Norfolk in 2010. She has very broad experience of leading public health work locally and regionally across all domains including planning for emergencies, tobacco control, physical activity, healthy communities and public health support to local clinical commissioning groups.

Jenny has been a member of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation since 2007 and more recently of the Expert Advisory Group on the NHS Constitution. She has also provided health policy evaluation and advisory support for international projects in Pakistan and Albania.

Centre directors

Roberta Marshall – North East

Dr Roberta Marshall was the regional director for the HPA in the North East. In her role she had a regional and national portfolio of work including leadership of the health protection services in the North East, regional director lead for flu and legionella, supporting the HPA chief executive on transition to PHE, and oversight and evaluation of a leadership development programme for Health Protection Services staff nationally.

In 1992 Roberta was appointed consultant in communicable disease control in East Lancashire where she stayed for 10 years. From 2002 to 2004 she was director of public health for Fylde PCT in Lancashire. She joined the HPA in 2005 as director of the North East Health Protection Unit and was appointed regional director for the North East in 2009.

Roberta is originally from the North West of England. She qualified as a doctor at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1981. She worked in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases before training in Public Health in Edinburgh and London.

Jane Rossini – Cumbria and Lancashire

Dr Jane Rossini was joint director of public health for NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale and Rochdale Borough Council, working on the local public health transition, establishing the Rochdale Health and Wellbeing Board, establishing public health in the council and transferring screening and immunisation co-ordination from the 10 Greater Manchester primary care trusts to PHE.

Having trained in Medicine at Manchester University, Jane worked in hospitals and community services across Greater Manchester before taking up her specialist training in 1990. She has held a range of consultant posts across Greater Manchester and at the North West Strategic Health Authority since 1995. She is married with two children.

Stephen Morton – Yorkshire and the Humber

Dr Stephen Morton was the regional director for the HPA in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Stephen is a medical graduate from Queen's University in Belfast and worked in clinical posts in general medicine, respiratory disease and rheumatology in Belfast City Hospital. He moved to the North West of England in 1981 to train in Public Health.

Stephen's first consultant post, in 1986, was for the three Manchester health authorities and was based at Manchester Town Hall. He moved to become a director of public health in East Lancashire in 1990, and a board member on a health authority covering half a million population.

As well as a long commitment to health protection, Stephen's other professional interests include health equity, the impact of transport, housing and social support on health and the co-benefits in promoting sustainability and public health. In the HPA he was the regional director lead for both tuberculosis and environmental hazards.

Martyn Regan – Greater Manchester

Professor Martyn Regan joined the Greater Manchester PHE centre from East Midlands where he has been an HPA regional director for the past five years as well as the research and development lead for the agency's Health Protection Services division.

Martyn led a programme of strategic engagement with universities across England on behalf of the HPA, which aimed to inform the future research strategy for PHE. Martyn's research interests include zoonotic diseases and vaccine-preventable infections, and he contributed to research supporting the introduction of the UK meningitis C vaccination programme as well as the shortly to be introduced national rotavirus vaccination programme.

Prior to working in the East Midlands Martyn had a long association with the public system in North West England, for over 25 years, in a range of senior public health positions. These have included roles as a consultant in communicable disease control, deputy director of public health, director of the North West Public Health Observatory, Government Office North West lead for Cancer Intelligence and regional epidemiologist.

Melanie Sirotkin – Cheshire and Merseyside

Professor Melanie Sirotkin took up her first public health appointment in Oldham, working on regeneration programmes and tackling health inequalities. She was appointed as director of public health and health strategy for NHS Tameside and Glossop and Tameside MBC in 2007 and in 2009 she widened her portfolio, taking up deputy chief executive responsibilities and oversight of the medical and clinical standards directorate.

In June 2010 Melanie joined Salford as director of public health and infection control and is a joint appointment with NHS Salford and Salford City Council. Melanie became the NHS Greater Manchester Cluster director of public health and chair of the Greater Manchester public health network, which brings together the ten directors of public health for Greater Manchester, in April 2012.

Melanie is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health and her interest and experience lies in public health commissioning, developing integrated care and establishing new and innovative approaches to improve health outcomes and tackling inequalities.

Fu-Meng Khaw – East Midlands

Dr Fu-Meng Khaw was the joint director of public health for Newcastle PCT and Newcastle City Council. In this capacity, he worked with the council to ensure the safe transfer of public health responsibilities. He also led on emergency planning, health protection and screening programmes for NHS North of Tyne, and has a regional portfolio of work, including migrant health and wellbeing.

After graduating from Newcastle Medical School in 1990, Meng initially trained as an orthopaedic surgeon, but in 2001, switched to train in public health in the North East.

In 2005, he started his public health career as a consultant in health protection in the North East Health Protection Unit, leading on health protection delivery in the North of Tyne area. Meng is a Part B MFPH examiner for the Faculty of Public Health, holds an honorary senior clinical lectureship at Newcastle University and is actively engaged in postgraduate teaching and research. He holds a doctorate in medicine for research on hip implants.

Sue Ibbotson – West Midlands

Dr Sue Ibbotson was the regional director for the HPA in the West Midlands. In this capacity she was responsible for the HPA's delivery of local and regional health protection services across the area, and led the quality and governance function for the agency's Health Protection Services division.

Having initially trained as a GP before undertaking public health specialist training, Sue has a diverse public health experience in a number of senior roles.

Her appointment as a consultant in public health medicine in Yorkshire in 1993 was followed by a move to Scotland, and she has held appointments in the West Midlands since 2000, first with the NHS Executive, and then as director of public health and medical director for the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority, before taking up her post with the HPA.

Gina Radford – Anglia and Essex

Dr Gina Radford qualified in medicine at the Royal Free Hospital. After GP training she entered public health and was director of public health in South West Devon. She then moved to the Department of Health and was head of the Public Health Development Unit, where among other things she was responsible for the establishment of NICE; and later regional director of public Health for the East of England where she led on the Department of Health's response to the Shipman Enquiry, and represented CMO on the WHO's Western Pacific Regional Committee.

On leaving the Department of Health in 2007, Gina spent 20 months as a director of public health in Fife, during which time she undertook a review of specialist public health for the CMO and chaired a national short life working group looking at the issue of making difficult decisions in NHS Scotland.

She then moved back to Anglia to work three days a week for NHS Cambridgeshire, providing public health advice to Anglia Heart and Stroke Network and Anglia Cancer Network. In addition she has been undertaking the evaluation of the Be Clear on Cancer National Awareness and Early Diagnosis (NAEDI) campaigns on behalf of the Department of Health and Cancer Research UK; and was recently appointed as chair of one of the newly established NICE Public Health Advisory Committees.

Jenifer Smith – South Midlands and Hertfordshire

Dr Jenifer Smith has been the director of public health and chief medical adviser for the Isle of Wight since 2007. After qualifying as a doctor from Charing Cross Hospital in 1980 she worked in clinical posts in general medicine, paediatrics and rheumatology before joining the public health training scheme in Oxfordshire in 1986.

Her consultant career has encompassed roles as director of South West Cancer Intelligence services, director of Breast Screening Quality Assurance, head of National Clinical Audit at the Commission for Health Improvement, and deputy director of public health and medical director at a strategic health authority. She is a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Politics.

Graham Bickler – Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Dr Graham Bickler was the regional director of the HPA in the South East from 2004.

As well as being responsible for the HPA's health protection services across the South East of England, he led on several issues across the HPA including heatwave planning, port health and public health law.

As a public health consultant for over 20 years, Graham has been a primary care trust and health authority director of public health, and worked in the Department of Health and in local authorities. These posts have covered the breadth of public health activity, and have involved senior professional and medical leadership responsibilities. He is also an Associate Member of the GMC's Fitness to Practice Committees.

Diana Grice – Thames Valley

Dr Diana Grice qualified as a doctor at Kings College London and continued her medical training in London and Oxford before specialising in public health. She has worked as a director of public health in High Wycombe and Berkshire, before moving to Sussex, where she was the director of public health for East Sussex County Council.

Diana is actively involved with the work of the Association of Directors of Public Health leading their work on health protection and became vice president in 2012.

Jim O'Brien – Wessex

Dr Jim O'Brien trained as a GP in Ireland and following clinical and public health posts in Malawi and the Solomon Islands settled in the South West and trained in Public Health. He has had various posts as a director of public health/medical director in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and a consultant in public health medicine and deputy regional director of public health NHS South West.

Jim led the transition of public health to PHE and local authorities in the South West. He recently completed a Masters in Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and continues to work in Madagascar and recently Ethiopia to help develop a new rural medical school.

Debra Lapthorne – Devon, Cornwall and Somerset

Professor Debra Lapthorne is currently joint director of public health for NHS Plymouth and Plymouth City Council, a post she has held since 2002 working across the NHS and local government. She was one of the first directors of public health to be appointed in England from a background other than medicine. She holds a Visiting Chair in Public Health at the University of Plymouth.

She has extensive board experience as a director and also, since 2009, as a primary care trust deputy chief executive. She is a South West committee member for the Association of Directors of Public Health and led regionally for health protection transition.

Shona Arora – Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

Dr Shona Arora was joint director of public health in Gloucestershire, a post she held since 2006. Prior to this she was director of public health in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT. She trained as a doctor at Cambridge University, undertaking her postgraduate work at a hospital in London. While training as a junior doctor, it was her interest in diabetes and its prevention that led to her pursuing a career in public health.

Shona has also worked in general practice in inner London and was a visiting Fellow at the King's Fund, working on health improvement and diversity issues. She has worked abroad at various times in her career, with CDC Atlanta in Puerto Rico, and with the UNAIDS programme in India.