

# Strategic plan 2022-2027



The Royal Society for Public Health is an authoritative and credible voice for policy and practice in public health.

We provide education and training, and undertake research and advocacy with the goal of taking us to a society where all members of the community lead healthier lives for longer.



All members of the population lead healthier and more equal lives for longer



Provide voice and vision to the wider public health workforce and beyond to support healthier lives



#### **Chair's introduction:**

I am proud to introduce the Royal Society for Public Health Strategic Plan 2022-2027. Over the last three years, it has been made ever more clear to us all that social and economic drivers of health influence our wellbeing and life expectancy. This strategy will guide RSPH's programme of work, helping us find collaborative solutions to improve the public's health.

The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis exacerbated health inequalities, and those already facing severe difficulties have been disproportionally affected. Targeted and sustained action can change this picture, and the RSPH can play a crucial role in influencing this change and building a fairer society.

We aim to do so by delivering work that is orchestrated by the core principles of this strategy: everyone can improve the public's health, from individuals to businesses; inequalities and their social and economic impacts matter; and an empowered and recognised public health workforce is crucial to unlocking health in communities across the UK.

The RSPH is in a unique position to lead on these principles that will help us reach our goal and see the UK as a healthier and more prosperous society. I hope you enjoy reading the plans that we have for the next five years. I look forward to working together to achieve them and to reporting back on the progress and success as we move forward.

Dr Jonathan Pearson-Stuttard, FRSPH FFPH, RSPH Chair of Council



We are

Agile and Innovative

Sustainable

Strong in Staff Wellbeing



#### **Our values**









#### **Chief Executive's introduction:**

We are now living in a crucial time for health. The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic still affect our lives, the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation have made it harder for people to afford essentials and inequalities have grown. All this has added pressure to a public health system that was already overloaded, as our membership have told us. Organisations like the Royal Society for Public Health can play a fundamental role in our collective action to respond to all these issues, and contribute to a strong and prosperous society.

Helping all members of the population have better health and lead healthier lives for longer is our ultimate goal, and with this in mind, we have launched this new strategy. More than just instructing our work, this strategy reaffirms our mission of providing a voice to the public health workforce and supporting healthier lives, focusing on areas that will take us to 2027.

We will use our voice to represent all who work or are affected by public health services from our unique and independent position. We will use our offer to support the wider public health workforce to develop and grow. We will make sure that our advocacy and service delivery activities help tackle inequalities, develop the public health workforce and involve all tiers of society, because public health is everyone's business. Finally, we will be a great place to work.

This new strategy sets us on a new path with many challenges but also plenty of opportunities. The RSPH has a proud history of influencing positive change, and I look forward to collaborating with our members, stakeholders, colleagues and staff to support the population to have better health.

William Roberts, FRSPH, RSPH CEO



### Introduction

The RSPH is the oldest public health institution in the world. Established in 1856, we have over 150 years of experience in supporting the wide public health workforce through education, training, research and influencing and, more importantly, supporting the public's health.

This strategy brings in the next chapter for the charity, where we will continue to fulfil our role as established in the royal charter we hold, but also go further and be bolder in our ambitions to tackle the greatest challenges faced by our society and by our members in the wider public health workforce.

This is necessary if we are to make the much needed gains following a pandemic, which has exacerbated the gross inequalities faced in our society, and a cost-of-living crisis that is very likely to impact the public's health for many years to come.



### **Our ambitions**

To make any progress and changes, we need to have bold ambitions targeting the right spaces that help us make an impact.

### Tackle inequalities exposed and exacerbated through Covid-19.

Inequalities across our society is nothing new. But the need to tackle these disparities and provide stronger voice and support for those communities most at risk is now essential. Covid-19 highlighted that the health and wellbeing of our communities must be supported if we are to grow and withstand any shocks to the system, such as another pandemic.

We will provide voice, raise awareness, influence and provide training on behalf of these groups.

### Change trajectory for improving UK healthy life expectancy.

For the first time since WWII, the life expectancy of men and women in the UK decreased in 2020. However, more concerning is the difference in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest communities. It cannot be fair or accepted that a person living in Wokingham will live 15 healthier years more than a person living in Manchester.

We will seek to convene the groups and influence the changes that will support healthier life expectancy across all communities, and provide better awareness of these factors.

### Help create the conditions and environments that support healthier societies.

We are aware of the impact that people, place, and systems have on our health and ability to lead healthier lives.

It is also well documented that more often than not our environments support unhealthy behaviours and consequently ill health.

We will encourage population level changes that champion healthier environments, whilst also providing our communities with the tools that will better support them and their health.



# RSPH Strategy



We want to:

Vision

Tackle inequalities exposed and exacerbated through Covid-19

> Help create the conditions and environments that support healthier societies

> > Change trajectory for improving UK healthy life expectancy

Support for the Public Health Workforce is crucial



We believe that:

**Voice** 

**Inequalities Matter** 

Public Health is Everyone's Responsibility

Enabling and empowering the wider public health workforce



We will deliver this through:

**Practice** 

Convening groups and stakeholders working across all areas of public health

Innovating and influencing in the public health arena with our practice

RSPH ROYAL SOCRETY FOR PURSUIC HEALTH Transforming the public health landscape by being a strong and sustainable organisation

### **Vision**



Tackle inequalities exposed and exacerbated through Covid-19

Help create the conditions and environments that support healthier societies

Change trajectory for improving UK healthy life expectancy

The RSPH has a unique role role to play when working to tackle inequalities, support healthier societies and change health trajectory.

We are clear in our vision that we want to work towards ensuring that societies are fairer and access to health and social care more equitable. It is important to us that every child born irrespective of where they are born, from Blackpool to South Cambridgeshire, from Manchester to Wokingham, have the same opportunities to live the healthiest and most productive lives possible.

RSPH knows that we are not alone in this vision, and to achieve this, we must work across the widest stakeholder base pulling in the usual and the unusual suspects in public health. We are uniquely placed to do this, through our broad membership, and even broader engagement with stakeholders through the range of services we provide (qualification, educational services, publications, programmes and policy and influencing).

We will work across the four nations to achieve our vision and ambition, and where possible we, will work more globally.

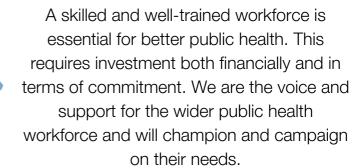


### **Voice**

Our mission is to have a strong voice in the Public Health arena. In the next five years, the RSPH will ensure the profile is raised in all three central areas of its voice. This will help us reach our goal of a UK that is healthier, more equal and more prosperous. This starts with us and we need to ensure that services we deliver also address these three core voice areas.



Support for the Public Health Workforce is Crucial



**Inequalities Matter** 

We need to reverse the decline in trends around life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. We care about poverty, inequalities in all its forms, and fair economic prosperity. Addressing these issues is critical to improving public health. To tackle the drivers of inequality we must understand and challenge them. A fairer society is a healthier society.

Public Health is Everyone's Responsibility



We must ensure that the public's health remains part of the conversation. Public health is everyone's responsibility, from governments to organisations, businesses and communities. Making public health everyone's business is essential for better public health outcomes.



### **Practice**

#### At the RSPH, we want to transform public health with our practice.

Our practice will enable us to further integrate our services, reach our ambitions and vision, and make sure those are relevant and our voice is heard.

The RSPH already has a great educational offer and does brilliant advocacy work, but this strategy will take us forward in having the impact we want.

It sets us on the path of delivering an integrated suite of high-quality educational offers, great programmes delivered with partner institutions, and impactful policy work that convenes stakeholders, with solid financial security. This will enable the RSPH to deliver work that demonstrably tackles inequalities, develops the workforce and brings new organisations into the fold to ensure public health is everyone's responsibility.



Enable and empower the wider public health workforce with our high-quality educational offer, impactful campaigns and great programmes

Convene groups and stakeholders working across all areas of public health, hosting conversations and championing better health outcomes

Innovate and influence in the public health arena with our research, programmes and qualifications, engaging our membership in these

Transform the public health landscape by being a strong and sustainable organisation with financial security



## Over the next five years

#### We will:



Influence changes to policy and service delivery, to support improvements in healthy life expectancy



Advocate for improvement in access to health and social care



Support an increase of uptake of health protection tools, information and education



Be the voice and ambition for public health and the workforce that deliver it



**Understand** and increase presence/voice in climate and health

#### Delivered with an organisation that is:



Agile and innovative, able to adapt to a changing external environment



Sustainable with financial security





Strong in staff health and wellbeing

#### **Get in touch**

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If you would like to work with us to support our strategy, would like to find out more about our membership offer or our other areas of work, please contact the relevant team:

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