



Dr Jo Newton

Public Health Practitioner Support Programme Provider

Hello, my name is Dr Jo Newton. I am the Provider for the Public Health Practitioner Support Programme and will be supporting you and working with you closely whilst you complete your Public Health Practitioner portfolio to become Registered with the UKPHR.

I have had the privilege of providing the Support Programme since 2014. During that time the driving principles of the programme have been that it is person-centred, supportive and flexible. I also aim to continuously improve the programme and welcome constructive feedback allowing me to respond and cater for a range of needs. I have needed to adapt my approach with the restrictions imposed by Covid and can now provide the programme both face to face and virtually.

A bit about me. I have had a wonderful career. I initially trained as a nurse at the Nightingale School of Nursing, St Thomas' hospital. After staffing for a while I trained to become a midwife in Luton and Dunstable. I then worked as a midwife at Blake Maternity Home in Gosport.

Following the birth of my children, I went into Health Promotion, working in Fareham. On completion of my BSc in Health Studies, I worked as a Health Development Manager at Southampton City Council. Some of the projects I was involved with included writing Southampton's first HIV/AIDS strategy; writing the sexual health strategy for looked after children; and developing the National Standards for Healthy Schools. As I missed the clinical work, I also trained to become a contraception and sexual health nurse and worked in clinics across Southampton.

When I moved to Portsmouth, I became the Programme Manager for Teenage Pregnancy. This was a very rewarding role and the work we did setting up sexual health clinics and one stop shops for young people, and developing extended support for teenage parents, were all commended by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit.

After completing my MSc in Public Health, I went into more generic public health roles aiming to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. I also took on

responsibility for workforce development in Portsmouth. One of my key ambitions was to ensure that the Public Health Practitioner workforce became Registered. I was delighted when, through all our efforts, Portsmouth was involved in the initial pilot in 2009 and the requirement for voluntary registration across the UK was achieved in 2010.

I had the opportunity to undertake a one-year secondment to the International Health Development Research Centre at Brighton University. This was an incredible experience and gave me the confidence to apply for a PhD. Whilst continuing to work as a Public Health Workforce Development Lead, I completed my PhD at London South Bank University (LSBU) in Healthy Settings. This was quite a learning curve but very worthwhile and gave me the confidence to teach on Public Health modules at Southampton University, LSBU and the Faculty of Public Health (FPH).

In 2016 I had the honour of being nominated and accepted to become a Member of the Faculty of Public Health through distinction and shortly after became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health. The required CPD ensures that I keep up to date with evidence, data, policy and practice.

I feel like all the aspects of my career have fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle and have allowed me to grow and focus on the things that are important to me, such as supporting public health practitioners with their development and their career progression – a role that I love.