The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is an independent, multi-disciplinary organisation, incorporated by Royal Charter, dedicated to the promotion and protection of collective human health and well-being. Through advocacy, mediation, empowerment, knowledge and practice we advise on policy development, provide education and training services, encourage scientific research, disseminate information and certify products, training centres and processes.

We have over 6,000 members and almost 100,000 people take our qualifications each year in subjects such as food hygiene, health and safety, nutrition and health improvement. We also run conferences in food safety, hospital hygiene, water, infection control, occupational medicine and nutrition for the elderly. Our publications include the journals Public Health and Perspectives in Public Health. We work in all areas of public health policy, and we link with many other organisations. We run an accreditation service for health and safety related products and we also manage the second largest food packaging certification scheme in the UK.

The Faculty of Public Health is the membership organisation for the leaders in UK public health. We work closely with our specialist members to stimulate national and international debates on promoting, protecting and improving public health. We set the standards for the education and training of public health specialists through a five-year multidisciplinary training programme and continuing professional development.

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Our annual conference regularly attracts the biggest gathering of public specialists in the UK and this year will be held in London on 4 July.

We are a faculty of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom and have a membership of more than 3000, based around the UK. FPH is a registered charity.
We call upon all political parties to:

1. Set out policies that create a fair society, emphasise the improvement of health and focus on the most preventable causes of ill health (poor diet, smoking, excess alcohol, obesity, physical inactivity, illegal drugs). We call for the implementation of evidence-based policies that shift the balance in health care from treating illness to prevention.

2. Implement policies that promote mental health and wellbeing through active participation of individuals and communities that foster community resilience, promote social justice and reduce inequalities.

3. Focus on early years, supporting parenting, improving the home learning environment, health promoting schools and lifelong learning, in recognition that our children represent the country’s future and that health is strongly influenced from the time of birth and before.

4. Pursue policies that promote a Scottish economy which is both sustainable and socially responsible.

5. Take steps to ensure that the Scottish population are protected as far as possible against the threats from communicable diseases such as pandemic flu, environmental dangers including climate change and other major public emergencies.

6. Maintain and wherever possible improve the quality of healthcare services across Scotland ensuring they are effective, equitable, accessible and appropriate, while recognising the current financial environment.

Health is one of the most basic of human rights and a cornerstone of social justice as indicated by the inequalities in health that exist between affluent and deprived individuals and communities. The health of the population is vital to the health of the Scottish economy.