Review 2012
Vision, Voice and Practice

850 attended our seminars and training sessions
100 expert speakers and chairpersons
700 delegates attended our conferences

28,000+ members
Health Champions

MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY
Introduction

As Chair of the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), I am delighted to introduce this review which provides an insight into the range of activities carried out by RSPH in 2012, and reflects on how they contributed to our purpose of improving health and wellbeing.

The public health landscape is ever changing. During 2012 the public health workforce was operating in an environment of significant change and this provided the backdrop to our activities. I am proud of the way RSPH responded to this changing and challenging landscape, working with the public, members, government and partner organisations to develop innovative approaches and fresh thinking to the development of public health initiatives and educational opportunities.

We have a long history of driving and supporting change in public health to improve practice and standards. As an organisation, we are continuously challenging ourselves to work more effectively and efficiently. As a partner with many organisations dedicated to improving population health and wellbeing the insights generated in this review will help us to improve our activities, services and advice we provide in future years.

At the end of 2012, we set the early and firm foundations for the long term integration of the Institute of Healthcare Management into RSPH and we look forward to developing our joint strategy in the coming year and broadening our reach across the health care system.

A special thanks to our founding CEO, Professor Richard Parish, who stood down in 2013, and has made a tremendous contribution to the field of public health. We are delighted to welcome Shirley Cramer CBE as our new CEO who will build on his achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, Trustees, our President and Vice Presidents for their work this year. I am grateful for their dedication to developing RSPH, building on its growing reputation and contributing to its history.

RSPH was formed in October 2008 with the merger of the Royal Society of Health and the Royal Institute of Public Health but our foundations go back to 1856. As an independent, multidisciplinary organisation dedicated to the promotion and protection of collective human health and wellbeing, RSPH has a distinctive position in public health.

Our work in 2012 included:

- Building on our reputation as an expert in public health, contributing our voice to support improvements to community health and wellbeing
- Creating and strengthening partnerships enabling us to work on new initiatives and projects
- Developing and providing resources, training and educational opportunities for the wider public health workforce
- Encouraging evidence based practice and scientific research
- Supporting our membership through learning, education and networking.

“The true measure of our success is not just the resources we mobilise, or the number of courses we deliver, or even the reach of our policy advocacy, journal readership and society membership, but the impact we collectively have had on public health practice and consequently on population health.”

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, President, Royal Society for Public Health
Through collaboration and partnership, we develop and communicate important health messages with a sound evidence base using our website, journals and networks to reach thousands of public health professionals.

**Our reach**

We recognise that to improve public health we must involve individuals at every level, empowering them to make positive decisions regarding their own health and that of their community.

Our multidisciplinary approach enables messages to be disseminated throughout our wide range of activities ensuring maximum reach across the population. Our courses, conferences, qualifications, projects and publications are developed to provide support and ensure individuals have access to relevant information, training and resources.

We aim to support the widest possible network of people, working with individuals in the community, public health professionals, policy and decision makers, governments and many more to support, educate, research, debate and inform key initiatives.

We have a growing international reach through our membership, training providers, journals, delegates and high profile speakers. We also have an active partnership with the American Public Health Association (APHA) and contribute to the programme for its Annual Conference.

**Looking forward**

RSPH will continue to develop its position as a trusted voice in public health. Our website, social media channels, media presence, reports, research and consultations are continuing to grow in number, quality and variety and we will ensure our voice, and that of our members, is heard in the future of public health.
USING OUR VOICE AND EXPERTISE IN 2012:
THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Publishing our third snapshot report ‘Paving the Way’. It provided analysis of the role and position of the wider health workforce and how changes to the public health system impacted on provision of health improvement service delivery in the UK. It offered a robust foundation for discussion with organisations including Public Health England about the need for ongoing support and investment in the workforce and strongly influenced the development of RSPH activities.

- Contributing to a two year EU funded project, led by the University of Galway, looking at professional standards for health promotion practitioners across Europe. The project concluded that standards were required and piloting of an overarching accreditation system will begin in 2013 with RSPH playing a role in the future strategic development of the health promotion workforce capacity in Europe.

- Developing a series of podcasts for the RSPH website, with experts including Dame Carol Black and Professor Steve Boorman discussing a wide range of public health issues.

- Contributing to the 5th Youth Index Report, produced by The Prince’s Trust which highlights the plight of unemployed young people today.

- Joining Sustain to call for duties on unhealthy food. The report “A Children’s Future Fund: How food duties could provide the money to protect children’s health and the world they grow up in” attracted national media attention and highlighted our view that tackling obesity requires holistic interventions in addition to any imposed regulation or taxation.

- Contributing to a joint submission on the School Food Plan on the importance of mandatory school food standards. The submission initiated online action, asking the public to show their support for the standards and provide their views.

- Responding to a NICE consultation on the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children under five years and how they can be best supported by childcare, early education and home visiting. Our response confirmed our support for a life course approach, highlighting the need for interventions to start during pregnancy.

“As a Trustee, I am always confident of the robustness of the argument we take, and believe that the solid reputation we have built up adds legitimacy to our contributions on community health and wellbeing.”

Dr Heather Hartwell FRSPH, Associate Professor, Foodservice and Applied Nutrition Research & Health and Wellbeing, Bournemouth University

“As a Trustee, I am always confident of the robustness of the argument we take, and believe that the solid reputation we have built up adds legitimacy to our contributions on community health and wellbeing.”

Joanna Saunders FRSPH, Head of Health Improvement, Rotherham Public Health

“RSPH enables me to be part of an organisation that best represents the values of the public health profession. It offers valuable opportunities to expand my knowledge and enables me to share my perspective and views. My team participated in the Health and Wellbeing Awards which gave us a platform to demonstrate the quality of our work during transition into the Local Authority and also provided valuable opportunities to hear about the work of other health improvement teams and organisations.”
Our Members

RSPH membership is recognised as a mark of commitment to public health and open to anyone working in the field. We have almost 6000 members and our diverse and international membership ensures RSPH is uniquely placed to represent, support and communicate with individuals across the discipline.

Of our three main categories of membership, Fellow, Member, and Associate, Fellowship represented 63% of members in 2012. Our successful student grade, which launched in 2009, saw a significant growth developing our reputation among the younger generation.

Our broad membership provides a wealth of experience, skills and expertise from an extensive range of professions including health promotion and protection, environmental health, the medical profession, food and nutrition and health & safety.

We are proud to have an international membership which has contributed to our growing profile across continents.

Supporting our members

Membership provides access to:

- A professional community that encourages networking and sharing of information
- The latest research and news through communications including our journals Public Health and Perspectives in Public Health
- Career development opportunities through courses, conferences and workshops
- Professional advice on food hygiene, health & safety and population health improvement
- Public health advocacy

In addition to individual membership, our Corporate Membership offers valuable opportunities to work with key stakeholders and partners who understand the importance of working with RSPH to promote public health.

Key Corporate Members for 2012 include PALL Medical, Elsevier, SAGE, Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Rentokil, ABTA and Morrisons.

Looking forward

We aim to increase engagement with our members, drawing on their expertise and skills through the development of specialist interest groups, surveys, forums and consultations. Another key development is the implementation of a new membership database to strengthen our membership processes and systems.

“I joined the RSPH in order to stay up to date with current developments and research in public health, receiving the journals, newsletters and other communications has provided me with these opportunities. Membership has also given me access to a network of like minded individuals who share my commitment to public health.”

Dr Bashir Qureshi FRCGP, FRCPCH, Hon. FRSPH Emeritus Vice President, Royal Society for Public Health
We believe improving public health is the responsibility of everyone. Individuals should have access to appropriate education and support enabling them to make healthy decisions and take responsibility not only for their own health but for the health of the community. It is only by working together that we can achieve long term progress and in 2012 we developed and cemented partnerships and relationships across the area of public health with existing and new key stakeholders.

**Partnerships**

Partnerships are a key part of our approach to delivering training and developing educational opportunities for the wider workforce. In 2012, RSPH joined the Greater London Authority’s Well London programme (funded by the Big Lottery), providing Understanding Health Improvement training and support to grassroots communities across nine London Boroughs.

We also worked with the Sector Skills Council for Sports (Skills Active) to support the delivery of the Olympic Legacy. Our project, Sport for Health, trained around 90 volunteers to support individuals in the community to get active and provide signposting to health information and support.

Other key collaborations included our ongoing partnerships with our publishers Elsevier and SAGE and working with organisations including the Food Standards Agency, The Prince’s Trust and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association.

**Institute of Healthcare Management**

One of the most significant moments of 2012 was on October 26 when the Institute of Healthcare Management (IHM) joined the RSPH. IHM has a long and distinguished history as the professional body for managers in health and social care and is one of the largest representative organisations in the UK. IHM has a diverse membership from NHS primary and secondary care, as well as from the independent and private care sectors and the Armed Forces. It is known across the UK for its Management Code of Conduct and its promotion of professional standards and development. Healthcare is a vital part of public health and health and social care managers are in a unique position to help improve public health. In 2012 work focused around settling IHM staff into their new environment and developing the IHM strategy for the coming years. Visit www.ihm.org.uk

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**Dr Cheryll Adams, iHV Founding Director**

The support of the RSPH was central to the smooth setting up of the iHV. We particularly appreciated the skilled advice and willing help from many members of the senior management team. We look forward now to a long and productive partnership - there are many areas of public health activity where we can add value by working together.

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**Mike Farrar CBE, CEO of the NHS Confederation and IHM Companion**

Public health and health sector management are interrelated. This association will not only help enable health care managers and public health specialists to respond to the new environment more effectively together, but will also give both organisations a better understanding of how to meet the health needs of communities.
The John Snow Society continued to grow in its home at RSPH and now has almost 3000 members. It is an important part of public health history, and we are proud of our ongoing partnership. In 2012 the Society’s annual Pumphandle lecture demonstrated that the lessons learned in previous centuries remain applicable today. It also began preparations for the 2013 Bicentenary celebrations.

Building public health competence in wider workforces

Throughout 2012 RSPH, together with partners and decision-makers, helped to shape public policy and thinking on a broad range of public health issues. Topics included behaviour change, public health and emergency preparedness, food safety, nutrition, climate change and environmental health issues, pharmaceutical public health, mental health and wellbeing and, in England in particular, improving the resilience of the new public health infrastructure.

Community workforce

Empowering, educating and developing the skills of individuals within the wider public health community is crucial to a sound public health infrastructure. It is equally important to support individuals to ensure they in turn communicate key messages; in effect, supporting people to make every contact count.

Pharmacy and public health

Pharmacy and public health was one of the key themes of our advocacy activity. At a national level, RSPH actively worked with the Department of Health and stakeholder groups, including the Pharmacy and Public Health Forum, chaired by RSPH Chief Executive (2008 - June 2013) Professor Richard Parish, to raise the profile of public health in pharmacy and inform and develop thinking.

Health Champions

Our Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement continued to be exceptionally popular. By the end of 2012, more than 28,000 individuals had taken part in the programme since its launch and by January 2013, 288 training centres were registered to offer the qualification. The qualification provides knowledge and understanding on the principles of promoting healthy choices and engaging in healthy interventions. The creation of almost 30,000 Health Champions has provided a huge resource of individuals equipped with the skills to provide practical support to tackle health inequalities across the country.
The success of the Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement led to a project initially run by North East Essex NHS trust which created 197 Youth Health Champions. These young people provide peer support in their schools to improve understanding of health amongst teenagers. RSPH developed a nationally recognised qualification, the Level 2 Certificate in Youth Health Champions, to be launched in 2013.

In further support of wellbeing we contributed to the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority’s Making Every Contact Count (MECC) framework, and built the national Level 2 Award Understanding Behaviour Change linking directly to the MECC competencies.

It focuses on enabling learners to support individuals in adopting positive behaviour change and it further informed a seminar where participants were encouraged to reflect on experiences of obstacles to behaviour change for their clients.

**Mental health and wellbeing**

Positioning mental health and wellbeing on a par with physical health and wellbeing was another key topic for 2012. This formed the focus for a high profile seminar led by Lord Patel with input from the Department of Health and the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The seminar contributed to the development of the Department of Health’s public mental health policy.

We recognised the need for increased awareness and education in the area of mental health and committed to developing the Level 2 Award in Understanding Mental Health and Wellbeing, the first national award in the area. This addition to our portfolio of health and wellbeing qualifications is aimed at the wider workforce and builds understanding of different attitudes and models, educating learners to identify opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing at a population level.

**Looking forward**

Creating and maximising opportunities for dialogue on the broader public health agenda remains a key challenge, with many organisations working effectively to raise the profile of single issues, but limited discussion of the broader context. RSPH will continue to work to facilitate and promote this dialogue, through direct advocacy, policy and our communication channels.

We will continue to develop our partnership and collaborative activities to help achieve our strategic goals and build on our commitment to improving health and wellbeing through the development of a new Well London volunteers programme.
Advancing the science and practice of public health

RSPH is committed to widening access to the best possible evidence. We currently publish two journals, Public Health and Perspectives in Public Health.

Public Health, our monthly peer-reviewed journal, continued to develop its international profile in 2012. The introduction of two new Associate Editors in 2011 allowed the journal to develop further and create a greater impact throughout 2012. Submissions from other continents are growing year on year, with China, UK, USA, Iran and India being the most frequent sources of papers. During 2012 readership as whole increased by 25% to around 22,500 downloads per month, and the growing online global readership demonstrates the increasing international reach of the journal and its evidence base. Successes in 2012 can be seen through the 36% increase in new submissions compared to 2011, and a rise in the journal’s Impact Factor to 1.350.

Perspectives in Public Health is our members’ journal, and we are committed to providing information and evidence relevant to those working in public health. In 2012 the number of downloads of papers published in the journal exceeded 80,000 for the first time, and the journal’s Impact Factor rose to 1.089. The international reach of the journal has continued to grow, with almost 75% of online access coming from countries outside of the UK.

“Peter Harrison PhD, Vice President, Health & Medical Sciences, Elsevier
It has been a pleasure working with RSPH and Editorial colleagues on Public Health over the past year, and to see the journal continue to grow from strength to strength, with increased manuscript submissions, online usage and impact around the world. Elsevier is delighted to partner with RSPH on the publication of Public Health and to share in the journal’s continued success.”
By publishing reports, supplements and special issues in both of our journals, RSPH can communicate key messages and strategic developments on a global scale. The development of a social media presence for the journals during 2012 has further increased their reach particularly with younger audiences and students.

We explored new options of increasing access to information and evidence for both journals in 2012. An Editors Choice function was set up for Public Health, making one paper freely available online every month for anyone to access.

In 2012, we introduced open access publication options to both journals benefiting both our authors and our readership, offering choice to researchers and contributing to wider access to the best possible evidence base for public health interventions.

Building capacity and capability

Our training, conferences, qualifications and resources are developed to be directly relevant to the workplace and national health priorities, and RSPH is widely acknowledged for its high level of quality assurance, experience and expertise.

Our qualifications portfolio now features 73 qualifications, with the qualifications pages of the website being the most highly visited.

In 2012 we developed our nutrition qualifications, providing valuable, specific training covering this important aspect of public health. The Level 4 Award in Nutrition and further Level 4 Certificates in Nutrition for Institutional Food Services and Nutrition for Physical Activity and Sport cater for individuals working in the health, fitness or catering professions who have a role in promoting healthy eating or preparing meals, menus and diets.

“Nutrition is a vital aspect of health and I love empowering people with an understanding of nutrition when teaching RSPH courses. I have seen the wide reaching impact of these qualifications on individuals ranging from learners altering their menus to provide healthier foods, to those who have commented on seeing an improvement in behaviour or long standing health issues, such as anaemia, as a result of improved diets.”

Dr Mabel Blades FRSPH, Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist

Both journals now offer special issues, which are often the result of relationships with partners and like-minded organisations. In 2012 these included:

- The Philipp Family Foundation on the Public Health International Health and Wellbeing Conference Supplement
- Laurence Waterman OBE and the Olympic Delivery Authority on the Perspectives in Public Health Olympic Legacy Special Issue
- The Department of Health Promotion at Brunel University on the Perspectives in Public Health Evidence Based Practice Special Issue
- Dr Gareth Morgan at NHS Wales on the Perspectives in Public Health Healthy Ageing Special Issues

73 Qualifications in our portfolio

Health and Safety, Health Emergency Planning and Built Environment were also key areas of qualification development in 2012. The Level 4 Certificate in Asbestos Removal for Contract Managers is now an entry requirement for the newly formed Asbestos Removal Management Institute, contributing to our commitment to improving health across the sector.
Conferences and seminars

Our active conference and seminar programme in 2012 covered a broad range of issues. Feedback has demonstrated that delegates are finding benefit in not only the educational aspect, but also the practical aspects of the programme, providing new opportunities for delegates to contextualise their learning.

Our programme featured over 100 expert speakers and chairs, many of whom are Fellows and Members of RSPH. We value the support of these professionals, who often give their time and support freely.

In 2012 this included; Professor Lisa Ackerley, Hygiene Audit Systems; Dr Bob Adak, Head of Gastrointestinal Infections, HPA; Dr Gordon Nichols, Consultant Epidemiologist, HPA; Susanne Surman-Lee and John Lee, Leegionella Ltd; Helen Gordon, Chief Executive, Royal Pharmaceutical Society; Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer & Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health and Dr David Pencheon OBE, Director, NHS Sustainable Development Unit (SDU).

In addition, our member events continued to prove very popular, with a high attendance at every event including a visit to the Chelsea Physic Garden and talks on nutrition by Dr Mabel Blades and Victorian history by Dr Rosalind Stanwell-Smith.

Professor Rodney Cartwright FRSPH, Consultant Medical Microbiologist (Retd), Chairman, Board of Trustees, Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering.

I have been a member of RSPH for many years and have seen it grow from strength to strength. Participation in the wide ranging symposium and conference programme has been invaluable, ensuring I am up to date with current developments and research. The programme is unique, providing opportunities for cross disciplinary workers to discuss public health challenges. RSPH is also a leader in the development of working groups that consider public health issues not being considered by other organisations. This multifaceted approach has been of great benefit to my career and personal development.
RSPH is committed to recognising, celebrating and sharing good practice

We further developed our training accreditation services in 2012 and were pleased to welcome Sainsbury’s as a new client. They join Morrisons and a wide variety of organisations who value our external and expert review and accreditation of their internal training programmes and delivery systems. This has accelerated take up of our services in this area and enabled us to develop a new health campaign accreditation offer.

Our Arts and Health Awards, in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, attracted a high calibre of entrants sharing their learning and demonstrating the value of innovative approaches to artists and health practitioners working together on community health initiatives. We continued to champion this cause with the development of an arts and health seminar series and the development of a high profile report about the status of Arts and Health.

Our national Health and Wellbeing Awards received submissions from organisations across the public and private sector. Site visits as part of the evaluation process clearly highlighted the engagement with target communities across settings and across the life course. The Awards are consistently evaluated as a valuable learning process for everyone involved, and we look forward to celebrating successes in future years.

Quality assurance

Throughout 2012, RSPH built on its outstanding reputation as a UKAS accredited Certification Body, carrying out third party audits against four defined International Standards. We have an international clientele, providing certification services throughout the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Denmark and Poland. In 2012 we added France to this list with two new clients. The BRC, which owns the Standards for Packaging and Storage and Distribution gave the RSPH the highest possible 5* rating.

Other successes

- The RSPH Awarding Organisation received accreditation renewal in 2012.
- As part of our commitment to best practice we received Ofqual accreditation for four new qualifications dedicated to assuring assessors of vocational qualifications are equipped to work to the best of their ability. In addition, our Training Solutions team has started using these qualifications to train Senior Meat Inspectors to ensure they are highly trained and confident in their assessment skills.
- The RSPH Pest Control qualification becoming the Industry Standard.
- Dr Richard Burton, Head of Qualifications Development, was welcomed to the Pest Control News Hall of Fame, joining a large group of pest control examiners who have been similarly honoured.

Increasing confidence

In 2012 the audit and certification services of RSPH Certification enabled our clients to demonstrate that they were meeting international standards. In response to customer requirements we offered Integrated BRC/ISO 9001 audits and our reputation for quality of service spread with word of mouth recommendations leading to increased market share.

Certification to The Department of Health’s Information Standard provides a quality mark indicating health information which is trustworthy and valid. In 2012 we saw an 85% increase in the number of our clients for this service, including many household names.

Looking forward

Work is ongoing to maintain high standards and ensure that industry needs are met in the current portfolio of qualifications covering food safety, asbestos awareness and inspection, anatomical pathology technology, pest control, meat inspection, the built environment, nutrition, health improvement and emergency planning. We will continue to expand our portfolio to support the wider workforce. The introduction of webinars will provide further reach to our conference programme.
RSPH has a long and distinguished history through its predecessor organisations of promoting and supporting public health in the UK and beyond. For the future we plan to build on these strong foundations by extending our influence and voice across a range of critical public health issues. We will work with partners across the country to ensure that we have multiple and diverse channels to provide information, education, training and support to those who can make a difference to the health of their communities.

The joining together of RSPH and IHM in 2012 offers a unique opportunity to provide customised and timely support across the healthcare system. During 2013 we will listen to our members and partners from across different sectors to ensure that our services meet the needs of individuals and organisations and are effective in improving the public’s health. RSPH and IHM will be stronger together and will respond to the challenges of a changing health and social care system.

As a united organisation we are committed and passionate about listening and learning so that we understand how to improve the public’s health. We will continue to respond and innovate to ensure that we have the most effective educational offers. We look forward to working with our expert members, partners and government to make inroads into improving the public’s health.

Shirley Cramer CBE Chief Executive RSPH

In addition to our Trustees, RSPH is led by an experienced Senior Management team who work tirelessly to develop the RSPH strategy ensuring we respond to the needs of the public health workforce and wider population.

PARTHY PARTHIPAN, FINANCE DIRECTOR
Sound financial management underpins the work of RSPH. Our property and business activities provide a solid foundation, enabling us to welcome IHM as part of RSPH. You can view our full accounts at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/search-for-a-charity/?txt=1125949
In 2013 we hope to continue this trend and look forward to seeing the IHM grow in its new home.

JANCE CONSTABLE MBA, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
The RSPH brand continues to grow and is synonymous with a valued, well recognised voice in public health. Our digital presence is a focal point for our 2013 activities with our website being a key knowledge hub and the development of webinars to help communicate important public health messages.

DR CHRIS SUTER, DIRECTOR OF QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION
In order to meet the needs of businesses and the public, we constantly refine existing qualifications whilst expanding our qualifications portfolio. Our reputation for Certification is second to none. In 2012 we were the preferred Certification Body for organisations seeking certification to the Department of Health’s Information Standard.

DR HEATHER DAVISON, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
2012 has seen countless successes in our work advocating measures to improve health and support the public health workforce. Key focuses for 2013 include arts and health, behaviour change and housing and health and I look forward to sharing many more developments and initiatives in these and other areas.
Thank you.

This review reflects our activity throughout 2012.

The progress we have made would not have been possible without the help, support and expertise of our members, trustees, staff, collaborators, sponsors, speakers, clients, learners, trainers, delegates, partners, authors and many more.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.
Qualifications in our portfolio

Courses and seminars run by our Training Solutions department

UHI training centres

VISIT  www.rsph.org.uk
JOIN   www.rsph.org.uk/joinonline
EMAIL  info@rsph.org.uk
CALL   020 7265 7300
TWITTER @R_S_P_H

John Snow House, 59 Mansell Street
London E1 8AN

Charity Registration Number 1125949