



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

FPH Ethics Committee

Terms of reference

(Approved by FPH Board – 21 May 2025)

Committee vision statement

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) Ethics Committee will provide a focus for ethical analysis, consideration and response to public health challenges and issues, and advise and support the Faculty in further embedding ethical principles and understanding into its activities, policies, practice and governance.

Functions

1. To provide a forum of relevant experts and stakeholders to advise the FPH, its various committees and its UK and international partners on ethical dimensions, considerations and response to public health challenges and issues, with a view to supporting robust decision making and the work of the Faculty, in order to deliver FPH's charitable objects and strategy across the UK.
2. To act as an expert source of knowledge and advice on public health ethics to the FPH, its various committees and its UK and international partners. and raising awareness and debate on public health ethical issues.
3. To promote public health ethics education and development opportunities for the current and future workforce and provide guidance on the ethical knowledge and skills to support public health practice.
4. To provide and disseminate strategic guidance and oversight in the field of public health ethics to the FPH, its various committees and its partners.
5. To develop and deliver a work plan that reflects the FPH five-year strategy by:
 - enabling advocacy on relevant aspects of policy
 - quality assuring FPH standards of practice in this area
 - promoting learning and contributing to workforce development and increasing capacity and expertise
 - supporting development of tools, educational materials and other resources to assist the FPH, its members, partners and stakeholders to integrate and embed consideration of ethical dimensions in all aspects of their work and practice
 - increasing understanding and knowledge
 - promoting public health ethics and values in policy, practice and research
 - increasing the profile of public health and FPH

- addressing FPH's international ambitions
- engaging FPH's membership in an active and productive manner
- identifying and engaging appropriate partners and stakeholders
- ensuring best practice is followed in relation to equality and diversity, in accordance with the FPH E&D policy

6. In order to do this, members of the committee might reasonably be expected to:

- provide advice
- attend events on behalf of the Chair to promote FPH agenda
- input or lead on consultation responses
- act as spokespeople on specific topics
- act as topic experts (and/or receive reports from same)
- represent FPH on specific external groups (and/or receive and consider reports from other representatives)

Membership

1. The membership of the committee will comprise:

- Chair
- Vice chair
- 4 general FPH members
- Representatives of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England
- Representative of the FPH Specialty Registrars Committee
- Chair/vice chair of the Public Health Ethics SIG (if not otherwise members of the committee)
- Academic member(s)
- Lay member(s)

2. Members will be expected to hold a portfolio of responsibilities in the committee work plan.

3. Members will be recruited through an open application process. The term of office will be three years, with the option to continue for a second three-year term. Thereafter members are ineligible for re-appointment until a period of one year has elapsed.

4. Members can be co-opted by the committee to carry out specific delegated pieces of work. Co-opted members must be reported to the next convenient meeting of the Board.

5. The Board may at any time appoint a member to the committee to fill a casual vacancy. They would retire at the conclusion of business at the next AGM following the date of their appointment.

6. The Board may at any time remove an individual member from the committee for good and sufficient cause.

7. Members are expected to attend all committee meetings and a failure to attend at least half of the meetings in any one year may lead to removal from the committee.
8. The chair shall be appointed by the Board either directly or on the recommendation of the members of the committee.

Meetings

1. The frequency of meetings shall be as determined by the committee.
2. The quorum for meetings is one third of its number, excluding *ex officio* and co-opted members, to the nearest highest integer.
3. In addition to face-to-face and online meetings, the business of the committee can be conducted through email.
4. A written record should be made of the proceedings of all meetings of the committee.

Governance

1. The Ethics Committee is a standing committee of the Board and reports directly to the Board through its chair.
2. The committee is required to produce an annual work plan, which should reflect the current FPH strategy. The work plan must be approved by the Board.
3. The committee will ensure regular reports on progress and developments to the Board and the chair will attend Board meetings as an observer.
4. The committee is required to produce an annual report, highlighting achievements and activities to inform the FPH annual report.
5. The Ethics Special Interest Group shall report to the Ethics Committee, and the committee will ensure that adequate reporting and monitoring processes are in place.
6. The work of the committee must comply with all FPH policies.

21 May 2025