

# Public Health Wales

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Public Health Wales is the national public health agency for Wales; protecting and improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities for people in Wales. It provides advice, expertise and specialist services to Welsh Government, health services, local authorities, other agencies and the population of Wales. It generates knowledge, intelligence and scientific expertise to lead change and drive tangible improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities. Public Health Wales, health boards, local authorities, criminal justice services and other public services work closely together to promote public health and identify and set the local strategic agenda in partnership with our communities. Public Health Wales recognises the importance of strong international partnerships and global cooperation in the pursuit of its public health objectives and hosts the International Health Coordination Centre; a pan-Wales resource for information sharing, knowledge exchange, and networking Welsh Health professionals with those working in other countries.

## *VPA focal persons*



**Professor Mark Bellis**

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Professor Mark Bellis is Director of Policy, Research and International Development for Public Health Wales. Professor Bellis has undertaken substantive research and development activities in the fields of violence prevention, alcohol, drugs and sexual health and remains an expert advisor to the Home Office and alcohol policy lead for the UK Faculty of Public Health. Internationally, Mark is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) global expert advisory panel on violence prevention, the UK Focal Point to the WHO for Injury and Violence Prevention and has worked as an advisor to a range of other UN agencies including United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Professor Bellis also works at Bangor University two days a week where he undertakes applied public health research with a focus on adverse childhood experiences and life course approaches to health. To date, Mark has published over 170 academic papers and more than 200 applied public health books and reports.



**Professor Karen Hughes**

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Professor Karen Hughes is Research and Capacity Development Manager (Specialist Projects) in the Policy, Research and International Development Directorate at Public Health Wales and an Honorary Professor at Bangor University. She leads a research collaboration between Public Health Wales and Bangor University to support public health policy and practice development in Wales. Her expertise covers violence prevention, adverse childhood experiences, alcohol use, youth risk behaviours and nightlife health. Previously, she was Professor of Behavioural Epidemiology at the Centre for Public Health where she co-ordinated the work of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention. Karen has published over 70 academic papers and a wide range of national and international reports, and has acted as an expert advisor to organisations including the World Health Organization, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Department of Health and National Institute for Health Research.