



### **About the Royal Society of Public Health**

The Royal Society of Health, also known as the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSPH), was established in 1876 following the landmark Public Health Act of 1875. Previously known as the Sanitary Institute (1876-1904) and the Royal Sanitary Institute (1904–55), it was created during a period of great change within the areas of public health provision and sanitary reform to which it contributed significantly.

During its first fifty years, the Society became the leading public health organization both in Great Britain and the rest of the world. It was soon renowned for events and conferences on pioneering and topical issues and developed qualifications for people working in public health professions. By the 1950s, the Society was a leading authority in its field, and was regularly consulted by governments and the international press on health-related issues. Since the 1970s, the Society has focused its activities on the most successful areas of its work - examinations, certification, and the journals *Public Health* and *Perspectives in Public Health*.

Today, RSPH is the longest-established public health organization in the United Kingdom. It is incorporated by Royal Charter completely independent of government and of any special interest. Members are academics, health professionals and practitioners who share an interest in promoting health through their daily work and come together through RSPH membership to provide cross-cutting, multidisciplinary perspectives on current health questions.

### **2022 Recipients of the APHA Honorary Membership**

#### **William Roberts BSc, MSc, RN**

William Roberts very recently joined RSPH as the new Chief Executive at the end of June. Joining the Innovation Unit as Director of Health Inequalities, Impact, and Learning, William will lead projects that introduce and scale innovative approaches to care.

Previously William has been a senior leader in the NHS across roles in public health, strategy, transformation, and planning. He is also a registered nurse who has worked in both hospital and community services and as a nurse specialist in tuberculosis and HIV.

In addition, William is Deputy Chair of the Terrence Higgins Trust and a Non-Executive Director of Housing 21 and POBL - two large housing and care providers. He brings a wealth of experience across public health and inequalities from the NHS, third sector, social care, housing, local government, and further education to RSPH.

Joining at a pivotal time for public health and for RSPH itself, William's leadership and enthusiasm will be vital to ensure the organization is in the best possible position to advocate, develop and support the health of all members of the public.