

Skills for public health systems leadership



The role of Public health leaders is to **drive positive change by developing joined up solutions.**



Public health leaders have to **work across multiple systems** because the causes of public health issues are often complex.



Public health systems leaders **require particular attributes and skills** to successfully drive change for better health outcomes.

Four key leadership traits

Seeing the bigger picture and choosing suitable approaches



“I think systems leaders make systems work. They kind of create a roadmap and inspiration and motivation, but also metrics for system performance.”

Effective collaboration and boundary spanning



“Systems leaders are collaborative leaders really, people that understand that you need to work across boundaries in order to make things happen.”

Empowering others to lead, building on the concept of distributed leadership



“The system leader is dependent on wisdom diversity. You want people that are opposed to your idea and will challenge you on it, otherwise you’re not an effective system leader.”

Maintaining strong underlying motivations and values, including the need for humility and a learning mindset



“I’m motivated by two things. One, a genuine desire to see greater fairness in society and hence in health, and, secondly, a feeling that we’re making a difference.”