



Royal College of Physicians

Dr David Pencheon Biography

David Pencheon is a UK trained doctor and was the founder Director of the Sustainable Development Unit [SDU] for NHS England and Public Health England, established in 2007. He left the SDU on 1st January 2018 and is an Honorary Professor and an Associate at the Medical School in the University of Exeter, UK, in particular on the Advisory Group to the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, a newly created trans-disciplinary centre. He has appointments at University College London (UCL), and at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability (CES) at the University of Surrey.

The SDU develops organisations, people, tools, and policy to help the NHS (and its partners across the health and care system in England) fulfil their potential as leading sustainable and low carbon organisations.

The unit shapes policy conducts research, and disseminates the best evaluated practice on sustainable development. It promotes a systems-based response to the opportunities of sustainable development and the challenges of climate change, and mobilises people and organisations, activating leaders and social movements at every level. It seeks to use the best possible evidence and practice from across the world to ensure that health systems invest appropriately in protection, improvement, prevention and care for current and future generations. The work of the unit aims to ensure that all possible health and social justice benefits are realised and aligned: environmentally, socially, culturally, and economically.

David Pencheon was previously Director of the Public Health Observatory in Cambridge from 2001 to 2007. He has worked as a clinical doctor in the NHS, a joint Director of Public Health in North Cambridgeshire, a Public Health Training Director, with the NHS R&D programme, and in rural China in the early 1990s with Save the Children Fund (UK).

His main interests and areas of research and publication are: health, climate change, and sustainable development; large scale change; strategy development; and personal, professional and organisational development

His current area of research is how we create the conditions most likely to promote environmental, social and economic sustainability for humans and other living systems.

He was awarded the OBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours List for services to public health and to the NHS.

