



TRAINING PROSPECTUS WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL 2024



The Town Hall Golden Gates

1. INTRODUCTION

Why Warrington?

It is said that Warrington is where the north begins when travelling up the M6 or on the west coast mainline, or where the north ends if you are coming down from the north. It is an intriguing mix of cultures from the more affluent “old Cheshire” areas to the areas with a grittier, industrial past. It has been very successful at developing business and keeping unemployment low.

Warrington is big enough to make a difference and small enough to care. It is on a scale that allows everyone in the team, including the Registrars, to make a tangible difference. You won't be a cog in a large impersonal machine. You will be exposed to real challenges, and be expected to see them through, and get full recognition for the work that you do. It is a non-hierarchical organisation, led by the example of the Chief Executive, who speaks to anyone, has an open door policy and welcomes comments from all.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING LOCATION

Warrington is approved by the Faculty of Public Health for 2 Specialty Registrars. Warrington also arranges public health placements for trainees from other disciplines and undergraduates. In addition to PH specialty training, Warrington has hosted trainees on paediatrics registrar rotation, Foundation doctors, Sports and Health undergraduate programme, Local Government Training Scheme, NHS Management Training scheme, Environmental Health officer placement, and overseas placement for a student from the Faculty of Health Management, Université de Lille, France. Registrars and other trainees are co-located with the public health team and are considered an integral part of the team.

2.1 Location

As a place to live and work, Warrington is a good choice. Its travel connections are unsurpassed – the M6, M62 and M56, and the west coast mainline and Northern, Trans Pennine train routes, all connect to the town.

The Public Health Team are based in the centre of the town, in 1 Time Square, Warrington, WA1 2NT. Car parking is available at a multistorey car park to the back of Time Square although charged at local rate and therefore use of public transport is encouraged. Time Square is easily accessible via public transport and is in easy walking distances of the Bus station and Warrington Central and Warrington Bank Quay train stations. Secure cycle stores are available. The PH team is located on the 3rd floor which is accessible.

2.2 The Public Health Department and training

The core public health team includes 26 people. There are two Consultant roles (comprising 3 CPHs) (as well as the DPH) as well as a Principal in Public Health and a Head of Service who collectively work as a Senior Management Group for the Public Health agenda. Team support is provided by a dedicated Public Health Business Unit. The team includes the Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Team which is located in the department. Subteams focus on Health Improvement and Staying Well; Children and Young People and Sexual Health and Starting Well; Health Protection and Healthcare Public Health and Ageing Well; and Substance Misuse, Tobacco control, mental health, complex lives and the wider determinants of health.

The PH team as a whole does cross portfolio working on a range of issues. For example, the new Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Delivery Plan. Projects are underway to support a smokefree generation and support for the community and education settings regarding vaping among children and young people. Also a cross system project to support the response to mental health and wellbeing following recent suicide events in an area of the borough. The team also commissions, co-ordinates and delivers training on public health issues to increase public health capacity at local level.

The public health team has a dedicated Knowledge and Intelligence team and a full time Public Health Communications officer – there is plenty of opportunity to gain experience of K&I work at place level, including, needs assessments, health impact

assessments and deep dives, and to gain first hand experience of developing communications strategies and media releases (including writing proactive and reactive press releases) and to work with and learn from our PH communications lead. For example, we are analysing the data from the 2023 Warrington Health and Wellbeing Survey and producing reports for the JSNA and decision making fora. We have also developed a communications plan with Public Health Communications lead for national Know Your Numbers week as part of CVD prevention work – this included press releases, print and targeted social media.

The PH team and Registrars work closely with colleagues in the Neighbourhoods Team (including the Wellbeing Service, Financial Inclusion Team and community centres), the Homelessness Service, the Families and Wellbeing Directorate, Education, Early Years and Public Protection (including Environmental Health and Trading Standards). We also work closely with colleagues in Warrington Place (Warrington NHS Integrated Care Board), voluntary sector, NHS Trusts, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), workplaces, the new Warrington Living Well Hub (lead by the hospital in the centre of the town) and our commissioned services. This has improved the reach and influence of public health within the council and the town, and affords additional training opportunities on the wider determinants of health.

There are a range of training opportunities to get involved with service commissioning and planning. Warrington commissions a range of public health services according to need and quality – including Drug and Alcohol Services, Lifestyle services, broader health improvement services, Sexual Health services, 0-19 Services, NHS Health Checks - and co-commissions some services with neighbouring boroughs and has SLAs for some services within WBC.

A monthly Public Health Team Learning and Development session is held for the whole team, including Registrars. This is an opportunity to update on key issues and input into development areas. Registrars are able to present work and get whole team input.

Accredited Trainers / Educational Supervisors



David Herne is an experienced Director of Public Health with local and Regional Experience across the NW

Sheila Paul is the lead trainer in the council. She is an experienced consultant and trainer.

Jo McCullagh is an experienced consultant and trainer.

There will also be a new Consultant in Public Health starting soon, adding to our training capacity

Activity Supervisors include:

Cathy Fitzgerald, Head of Service, who is an experienced Activity Supervisor and Head of Service with responsibility for Substance Misuse and Complex Lives, Marmot, Adult mental health and wellbeing and Tobacco Control

Julie Murray-Shepard, who is Public Health Principal and has a wealth of experience from Cheshire and Merseyside and leads on Children and Young people's public health and Sexual Health

Comprehensive Induction

As a department we have developed a comprehensive Induction package for Registrars that can be adapted to meet Registrar's particular interests and learning needs. Induction may include an overview of the work of the department and the business plan – so Registrars add to their professional understanding of public health service work and see where their projects link to Warrington priorities.

The department offers a unique opportunity to influence the wider determinants of health. All registrars are supervised by the accredited educational supervisor and supported by Activity Supervisors and other senior staff to complete programmes of work and gain competencies. Registrars are members of the Public Health Senior Management Group working with the Consultants and Heads of Service and Public Health Principal

3. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LINKS

The Director of Public Health is a statutory officer of the council and attends the council Senior Management Team. Public Health is part of the Families and Wellbeing Directorate in WBC, and closely linked to Adult and Children's Social Care. The whole of the Council is oriented towards the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which was refreshed in 2023 and launched in 2024 reflecting the themes of – starting well, staying well ageing well and strong and resilient communities.

The mix of affluent and deprived areas means that there is a challenging combination of socio-economic circumstances within the town. It is a unitary authority, with one Warrington Integrated Care Board (NHS ICB) and one principal hospital in the centre of the town. The Council is within walking distance of many community and third sector organisations and the hospital. This improves the ease of communication with partners.

Working relationships between partners are close and there are many opportunities to develop programmes of work together. The town also has a successful rugby league team, which has an excellent award winning reputation for community working and has close links with the Public Health Team; for example the successful 'Fit to Tackle' and 'Offload' programmes and work to include healthy food and drink options at matches.

With a population of 210,000, Warrington is the first town to be awarded Healthy Cities membership in 2009 as part of the UK network. We are part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health collaborative (ChaMPs), which enables linked work across borders, especially on the Public Health offer to NHS commissioners, health protection, knowledge and intelligence, and commissioning.

We also have strong links within Cheshire, with our fellow Public Health teams in Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils. There are good links with local Universities, including Liverpool University, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and Liverpool John Moores University.



Rugby League Tour 2021



Homecoming parade 2019



Time Square looking towards Council Offices and Warrington Markets



Warrington Town Hall

4. PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

So what are the advantages of training in Warrington?

- There is a breadth of socioeconomic circumstances, with marked inequalities within the town. The Health and Wellbeing Board keeps close track of these inequalities, and many are narrowing, but not as fast as we would wish, and the absolute gap remains very wide post Covid-19 pandemic.
- It is a unitary authority with one Warrington Place ICB therefore it presents a relatively uncomplicated set of relationships, allowing maximum effort to be expended on what we are here for i.e. actually improving and protecting health.
- We enjoy excellent relationships with the UKHSA, NHS England and Improvement, OHID and the wider PH Collaborative across Cheshire & Merseyside/Champs. We encourage joint training opportunities with local and subregional organisations.
- The Warrington Public Health Team has extremely strong partnerships within the Borough. The DPH is part of the Health and Wellbeing Board, leads the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Group and the Health Protection Board and the WBC CEO sits on the Integrated Care System Board. Members of the Public Health Team work on the wider determinants with partners in the council, third sector and partners across the town.
- Warrington offers good training opportunities in :

Health Protection: Warrington has a strong system of public health governance in place; including the Health Protection Board. We commission Infection Control services collaboratively with Halton and St Helens, and work closely with the IPC team, Public Protection colleagues in WBC, UKHSA and the NHS to promote and protect health in the town. Warrington Borough Council is particularly strong on health in planning. The department afford opportunities to get involved in Health Protection strategic planning as well as responding to Health protection incidents and issues. Public health are developing a joint programme with planning and environmental protection colleagues to respond to planning application consultations and SPDs; and ultimately develop health impact assessments for the major developments. There is opportunity for Registrars to help develop this work, especially regarding the strategic economic development in the region and the impact on Warrington. There are strong programmes of work with businesses, and to plan for health and social care estates into the future linked to growth in the town.

Health Improvement: Our Health Improvement Specialists commission/ programme manage health improvement initiatives. There is a comprehensive Commissioning plan and pipeline in place which is subject to oversight by the Public Health Governance Group on which the Cabinet Member for Public Health plays an important part – so we know what we are doing to improve health, and whether it is having an impact. There are opportunities to work with

other members of the public health team regarding Healthy Cities or inequalities in the town whereby Warrington has populations that are within the 20% most deprived and the 20% most affluent in England.

Wider determinants: Whilst Warrington has a relatively affluent profile it has higher than expected death rates from cardiovascular disease and cancers and has significant health inequalities in the Central Six electoral wards. In addition the alcohol harm reduction agenda is very challenging particularly amongst women and young people. Another issue of concern is the high referral rate and the high usage of acute care within Warrington, and for social care. So the challenge in Warrington is for demand reduction overall, and to enable the less affluent inner parts of the town catch up with the outer more affluent areas.

Knowledge and intelligence: The K&I team provide a first rate service and rightly have done much to enhance the reputation of public health with the council and partners. The team lead the JSNA process and the refresh of annual statistical monitoring of health and wellbeing for the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as the delivery and analysis of the 2023 Warrington Health and Wellbeing Survey. There is an excellent library service for evidence based review services, which means that data and research evidence can be accessed within the public health team. Alongside K&I analysts we have a specialist qualitative researcher as a part of the team, giving Registrars the opportunity to improve their skills in this area and in evaluation techniques.

5. EXAMPLES OF RECENT REGISTRAR PROJECTS

Public Health Speciality Trainees

- Charlotte Simpson was the first Senior Trainee in Warrington Council 2014-15. Charlotte led the cardiovascular programme and the partnership with public protection in the council. Charlotte also contributed to the policy paper on the role of businesses in health and wellbeing. Charlotte went on to take on her first Consultant post in Cheshire East.
- Rebecca Masters was formerly Acting Consultant in Warrington for 6 months covering health protection and health care public health. She secured her first consultant post in Wales straight after CCT.
- Anna Varela-Raynes also secured a post with PH Wales and successfully transitioned to that from Warrington. While in Warrington, she helped set up the Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Hubs.
- Lois Murray spent three years in Warrington, including nine months of Out of Programme Experience with the World Health Organisation. Lois substantially led the flu pandemic plan for Warrington with partners, and clinical pathways for high blood pressure and undertook health needs assessment work on employment in central Warrington.
- Julia Darko, ST2 commenced a health needs assessment for cancer (Pathways and priorities) as this recently overtook cardiovascular disease as the biggest killer in Warrington.
- David Newbold developed a highly complex health needs assessment for substance misuse and reported to senior staff on the Community Safety Partnership and the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership and developed expertise in supporting vulnerable people
- James Moran is supporting work on health and planning, including

Supplementary Planning Documents, and is leading on a Physical Activity Needs Assessment

- Hayley Wardle has done a comprehensive assessment to support measles preparedness and is currently developing sections of the Delivery Plan for Warrington's new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Other trainees

- NHS Management Trainee helped to scope a piece of work on complex lives with NIHR colleagues at the University of Liverpool
- Undergraduate student who contributed to the messaging for Heatwave, Skin cancer and Hypertension campaigns in summer 2015;
- Environmental health trainee who contributed to the assessment of health impacts in a major planning application of warehouses in Omega area of Warrington; and final year BSc dissertation how HIAs add value to planning applications.

6. FACILITIES

All registrars have their own laptop as full members of the public health team.

7. CLINICAL GOVERNANCE / CPD

The public health team provide opportunities for continuous professional development and learning. There are monthly public health team meetings where time is set aside to share learning and updates across the team. Senior registrars can be given the opportunity to organise these learning events for the team.

Trainees also join the PH Governance quarterly meeting which provides the overall assurance of the programme of work, clinical and integrated governance, the public health grant, contracts, performance and risks. A recent Internal Audit gave a statement of Substantial Assurance for this aspect of our work.

8. CONTACTS

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of coming to work in Warrington, please contact Sheila Paul on Sheila.paul@warrington.gov.uk 07581 035362 and David Herne David.herne@warrington.gov.uk

6. FACILITIES

All registrars have their own laptop computer, personal logins and desk space, as full members of the public health team.

7. CLINICAL GOVERNANCE / CPD

The public health team provide opportunities for continuous professional development and learning. There are monthly public health team learning and development meetings where time is set aside to share learning and updates across the team. This is a peer learning set to discuss current issues and challenges. Senior registrars can be given the opportunity to organise these learning events for the team.

Registrars also join the PH Governance quarterly meeting which provides the overall assurance of the programme of work, clinical and integrated governance, the public health grant, contracts, performance and risks.



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