Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council – Training Location Guide

**1. Come to Blackburn with Darwen…**

Blackburn with Darwen has a rich heritage and a diverse community. Since becoming a Unitary Authority in 1998, its boundaries now embrace the 2 towns of Blackburn and Darwen and the surrounding West Pennine countryside extending south to the border with Bolton, Greater Manchester. Famous connections include pioneering Victorian cinematographers Mitchell and Kenyon, fellwalker and author Alfred Wainwright and local MPs Barbara Castle and Jack Straw.

A cradle of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, it was briefly known as ‘the weaving capital of the world’, having more than 140 working mills at its peak. Gandhi visited Blackburn during his campaign to boycott British textiles, the main purpose of which was to talk to the British people most affected by it and he stayed with a local family of mill workers.

Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, next door to the Town Hall, documents all aspects of Blackburn’s history, from Neolithic times to the present, and includes a number of industrialist’s collections, including Japanese prints, world beetles and pre-Raphaelite art. The Victorian Picture Gallery can be booked as an inspiring setting for a meeting or event that deserves that little bit extra.

Blackburn with Darwen is ranked 9th most deprived Upper Tier Local Authority in England (IMD 2019). Of its population of 150,000, almost 30% is of South Asian heritage (50% of children and young people) and the Borough has the 3rd highest proportion of Muslim residents of any local authority in the country.

The organisation of public health in Blackburn with Darwen has been relatively stable in recent years, covering the same footprint as the Borough Council since October 2000. As a result of this stability, and the relatively small size of the Borough, there is a close working relationship with the coterminous Clinical Commissioning Group and well developed partnership arrangements.

In October 2018 the Public Health Department became the Department of Public Health and Wellbeing, with the Director of Public Health now heading up the additional services of Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture.

In 2018 Blackburn with Darwen Council won the Management Journal ‘Council of the Year’, having previously twice won the LGA ‘Council of the Year’.

In 2018, working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Blackburn with Darwen became one of five Social Integration pathfinder areas. In 2018 the Council led a successful bid on behalf of Pennine Lancashire to become one of twelve Sport England ‘Place Pilots’ and in 2019 led a successful bid on behalf of Pennine Lancashire to become one of five ‘Child Obesity Trailblazer’ sites. All three programmes will run for 3-4 years.

Blackburn with Darwen is now part of the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership, which includes the footprint of East Lancashire CCG. The two CCGs have a former Director of Public Health as their joint Accountable Officer, who came into post in January 2019 and an integrated management team.

**2. Travel, accommodation and facilities**

The Public Health directorate is based at 10 Duke Street, in the centre of Blackburn, within easy reach of the M65 motorway and less than 10 minutes walk to the bus and train station. There are direct train services to Manchester, Preston, the rest of East Lancashire and West Yorkshire. While ease of travel to the training location by public transport would very much depend on the home base, a current senior member of the team travels every day from West Yorkshire and is not restricted in attending external meetings. However, travel between Blackburn and Liverpool, for example for the MPH course, would take approximately 1hr 45mins by train.

The building itself is newly refurbished to a high specification, providing excellent office accommodation on the top floor, shared by the whole Public Health Team, except the Director and PA who are on the 3rd floor. There are secure bike boxes and shower facilities on-site. Other attractions include proximity to a new swimming pool and sports centre.

Specialty Registrars have their own desk and laptop with remote access and telephone (Lync) facility; unlimited b/w & colour printing on the same floor, stationary and administrative support for setting up and supporting meetings in line with the rest of the team.

**3. Educational Supervisors**

Blackburn with Darwen currently has two Educational Supervisors and we have plans to increase this following further recruitment to our Public Health Consultant team in early 2020.

**Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health**

Before coming to Blackburn with Darwen in October 2009, for a number of years Dominic was the Deputy Regional Director of Public Health at Government Office North West. Dominic is interested in health policy and the wider determinants of health and continues to work internationally with the WHO and the Marmot Team and recently appointed Visiting Professor, University of Central Lancashire.

**Gifford Kerr, Consultant in Public Health**

Gifford is the Lead Educational Supervisor and the only medic in the team. His main areas of work are Health Protection and Public Health Intelligence. Before entering public health Gifford trained and worked as a GP in East Lancashire and the north of Scotland, and in between, for the British Antarctic Survey.

1. **Some notable recent StR projects**

Children and Young People’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing ISNA

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/pdfs/JSNA%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%E2%80%99s%20Emotional%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing.pdf>

Trips and Falls ISNA

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/pdfs/Falls-ISNA.pdf>

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014 - Won 3rd place in ADPH annual competition !

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Public%20health%20docs/public-health-report-2014.pdf>