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’s resident population of approximately 150,000 is generally rather deprived. 8 of its 91 Lower Super Output areas are in the bottom 1% most deprived nationally. Almost 30% of the population 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, which has proved to be a very positive early environment for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

In 2016 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was shortlisted for the LGA ‘Council of the last 20 years award’, and is the only Council to have twice won ‘Council of the year’.

Blackburn with Darwen CCG is the lead commissioner for Lancashire Care Foundation Trust Mental Health Services, on behalf of all Lancashire CCGs.

**2. 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 train station, with services to Manchester and Preston. Other attractions include proximity to a new swimming pool and sports centre.

The building itself is newly refurbished to a high specification, providing excellent office accommodation on the top floor, shared by the whole Team, except the Director and PA who are on the 3rd floor.

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

**3. Educational Supervisors**

There are currently three Educational Supervisors in Blackburn with Darwen with a diverse range of experience and interests.

**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.

**Helen Lowey, Consultant in Public Health**

Helen is the lead for Commissioning Public Health Services. She is a Visiting Lecturer in Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University. Helen is a pharmacologist by background and has a PhD in cancer epidemiology.

1. **A couple of notable recent StR projects**

Children and Young People’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing ISNA

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/CYP-ISNA_final-full-version.pdf>

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

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Public-Health-Report-2014.aspx>