

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Public Health Training Prospectus

**Cheshire West and Chester
Training Location**

February 2023



Cheshire West
and Chester

Why choose Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C)?

- CW&C covers a varied resident population, providing Specialty Registrars with a wide range of opportunities.
- We operate a hybrid working style, with homeworking and office space in Ellesmere Port, Chester and Winsford. The Public Health Team's main office is at The Portal, in Ellesmere Port. All our offices provide pleasant physical environments with excellent facilities and support.
- Educational and Project Supervisors at Cheshire West and Chester have extensive training experience.
- The Public Health Team is friendly and supportive!

Introduction

1.1 Cheshire West and Chester¹

The borough of Cheshire West and Chester is located in the North West of England and includes the historic city of Chester, the industrial town of Ellesmere Port and the market towns of Frodsham, Helsby, Neston, Malpas, Northwich and Winsford. There is a wide range of manufacturing industry (chemical and engineering), a large agricultural base, a strong service sector plus a vibrant education, leisure and tourism sector, highlighting the dramatic contrast between acres of rolling Cheshire plain, lush forest, tall chimney stacks and towering industrial landscapes. About a third of the population lives in rural areas. Most population health outcomes for our residents are similar to the national average but this hides patterns of stark health inequalities within the borough. According to the government's 'Indices of Deprivation', the overall quality of life is good for many residents; however, there are places where some communities experience multiple disadvantages.

1.2 Our Population

Cheshire West and Chester has a population of approximately 357,200 and covers 350 square miles. It is the fourth largest Unitary Authority in the North West. The number of people living in Cheshire West and Chester has shown a modest growth over the past 25 years and is forecast to increase to almost 367,000 by 2035. The greatest increase will be in the number of residents aged 65 plus, which is expected to increase to 101,000, or 28% of the population, by 2035. The number of people aged 85 and over is forecast to more than double to 20,000. (These forecasts are currently being updated to reflect information from the Census 2021.)



¹More information on Cheshire West and Chester can be found in our State of the Borough report [State of the Borough dashboard](#) | [Cheshire West and Chester Council](#) [State of the Borough narrative January 2023](#) | [Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

1.3 Cheshire West and Chester Council



Cheshire West and Chester Council is a top performing council in the country with many national awards to its name.

Council website - <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>

Council Vision - The Council Plan for CW&C 2020-2024 "Play Your Part to Thrive" can be found at

Home | CWC Corporate Plan (cwccouncilplan.co.uk). The Council's vision is that "By 2024 we will all play our part in building greener, fairer and stronger communities."

The Public Health Team is fully integrated into the council and works closely with all its departments including (but not limited to) Regulatory Services, Public Protection, Finance, Legal, Procurement, Insight and Intelligence, Commissioning and Contracting, Childrens and Adults Services, Leisure Services, and services within the Communities, Environment and Economy Directorate.

1.4 Our local health and care economy

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside came into formal existence on 1 July 2022. As the Integrated Care Board, it is responsible for planning NHS services, including Primary Care, community pharmacy and those previously planned by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) across the whole of Cheshire and Merseyside. Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership - an Integrated Care Partnership - operates as a statutory committee consisting of health and care partners from across the region, including voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and independent healthcare providers. It provides a forum for NHS leaders and local authorities to come together, as equal partners, alongside key stakeholders from across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Cheshire West Place

Cheshire West Place is one of the nine Places (local authority footprints) in NHS Cheshire and Merseyside. Like other Places, we are focused on prevention and early intervention, and committed to developing a joined-up health and care system that is safe, affordable and meets the needs of the people of West Cheshire. Our Place Plan is also the borough's Health and Wellbeing strategy. Our vision is to "to reduce inequality, increase years of healthy life and promote improved mental and physical health and wellbeing for everyone in Cheshire West".

There are 42 GP practices in Cheshire West and nine Primary Care Networks. Our population is served mainly by two hospitals - patient flows are largely to the Countess of Chester Hospital in the west of the borough and to Leighton Hospital (Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) in Cheshire East. There are also sizeable patient flows to Arrowe Park Hospital in neighbouring Wirral and significant cross-border movement with Wales.

2 Organisation of Training

There is a wide range of opportunities to work in multi-disciplinary teams on particular projects or roles at an appropriate level of responsibility. A balanced portfolio of training opportunities and specific responsibilities is negotiated before and during the placement, using the learning agreement and e-portfolio as appropriate.

2.1 Location and Facilities

The location is approved by the Faculty of Public Health for two Specialty Registrars.

The Public Health team is officially located in The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port

CH65 0BA and hybrid working is the norm.

Cheshire West and Chester Council recognises the importance of providing a flexible working environment which creates a modern approach to work and work-life balance, but which maintains high quality services for its residents and delivers on its outcomes. Working in an agile, flexible and mobile manner means that we use shared office space and shared equipment (you will have your own laptop and mobile phone). All staff are expected to keep their Outlook calendars fully up to date and be contactable during working hours.

² About - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

³ Cheshire West Place Plan | Cheshire West and Chester Council

2.2 Structure of the training

Lead Trainer Professor Helen Bromley

helen.bromley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Our consultant team, including the Director of Public Health, are all accredited trainers. Each Specialty Registrar (StR) is allocated an Educational Supervisor; this person keeps an overview of their training needs throughout their time in the training location. StRs can expect regular meetings with their Educational Supervisor. All trainers have extensive training experience and are committed to building capacity and skills through CPD events and participation in other educational events.

We strongly value our public health Speciality Registrars and encourage and support Registrars to take on new challenges. When StRs start in the location, they discuss their training needs with their Educational Supervisor.

Each Registrar undergoes an induction programme to meet key people and find out about public health in the area, which will include other consultants and team members who will be involved in their training. Other trainers may supervise a particular project, and people who are not accredited trainers may also be involved in delivering specific training in areas where they have specific expertise.

Professor Ian Ashworth

Ian was appointed Director of Public Health (DPH) for Cheshire West and Chester Council in June 2017 and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Chester. He has a background in delivering successful health improvement programmes within Local Authorities and NHS Trusts across the North West.

As DPH for Cheshire West and Chester, Ian led the borough-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a statutory chief officer of the Council and is the principal adviser to elected councillors, officers and partners on all health matters. To complement this work, Ian has an expanded portfolio for equality, diversity, health

and wellbeing services and inclusive leisure, working closely with the Council company Brio Leisure. Ian is the lead Director of Public Health for NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Population Health programme, which recently led on the production of the innovative All Together Fairer Marmot Community Strategy with the Institute of Health Equity. Ian actively supports StR training, particularly those who are nearing the end of their training.

Professor Helen Bromley

Helen has worked in Public Health for over 20 years in health service and academic environments, locally, nationally and internationally. She has been at Cheshire West and Chester Council since 2013. She is the lead Consultant for Public Health Research and Intelligence, Health Care Public Health, Older People, and Mental Health and plays a key role in Public Health commissioned services and the evolving local health and care landscape. Helen was previously a national NICE Fellow and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Chester since 2014, where she works closely with the Faculties of Clinical Sciences and Nutrition and Health and Social Care.

Donald Read

Donald has a career spanning more than 20 years of experience in Public Health and wellbeing, including time spent as a nationally qualified Youth & Community Development worker with a strong focus on community health, as a specialist health worker located in an NHS provider, as a Public Health specialist based within a Primary Care Trust and as a Consultant in Public Health. Donald joined Cheshire West and Chester Council's Public Health team in 2014 and currently leads on Health Protection / Infection Control, Wider Determinants of Health and elements of Healthcare Public Health including health service quality. He is also portfolio lead for sexual health and substance misuse.

2.3 What to expect?

All StRs are expected to participate fully in the working life of the Public Health team. We have an excellent track record in working across the local authority, and with our wider partners.

We have strong links with the University of Chester, our voluntary sector partners and the local NHS and there are opportunities for StRs to develop these links further if they wish.

In addition to its broad Health and Wellbeing portfolio of research and teaching (including Public Health), the University of Chester also created three Research and Knowledge

Exchange Institutes in January 2023:

- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Culture and Society**
- **Sustainability and Environment**

StR's will be encouraged and supported to explore how they could work with the University within or across these institutes for mutual benefit.

Wherever and however you want to develop your Public Health skills and experience, expect to have fun and learn a lot!

3 From the StR's perspective

3.1 Examples of recent Specialty Registrar Projects

Recent examples of Public Health practice include:

Health Improvement

- supporting the DPH lead for Population Health and development and delivery of the Marmot Programme across Cheshire and Merseyside
- taking the lead role for Making Every Contact Count (MECC) and launching the local MECC programme
- updating areas of the JSNA
- taking a lead on specific topic areas of the Public Health Adults Service recommission
- leading the suicide audit and recommendations for action

Health Protection

- running a hydration pilot in care homes and hydration resource pack to reduce urinary tract infections (to support prevention of

Gram-negative blood stream infections)

- developing the strategy for management of people with Hepatitis C
- reviewing Hepatitis services
- reviewing measures to improve air quality
- recommissioning the Infection Prevention and Control Service

Health Service Delivery and Quality

- being the lead for Blood Pressure - working with CHAMPS to launch a blood pressure testing programme in the workplace
- representing for Public Health at the former Clinical Commissioning Group's Quality Group
- analysing and producing the Local Safeguarding Children's Board four-year update report on child deaths
- representing Public Health at former West Cheshire CCG Serious Incident Review Group

3.2 What do the STRs say?

"A great training location; this is one of the few locations where I felt valued as a member of staff rather than just a trainee."

"During my time I was given some good opportunities and managed to achieve quite a number of competencies. Examples of work include setting up the Bowel Cancer Screening programme, and conducting a sexual health skills audit, and writing the emergency plan."

"It was a smaller team than I was used to, but everyone was very friendly and helpful - particularly my trainer, who I enjoyed working with and was very supportive and approachable"

"... is in a great position, it is easy to get to, a nice place to be and offers some really interesting work opportunities due to the diversity of the patch it covers. A really rich learning opportunity all round."

"... is great for trainees in the later stages of the training scheme, as you can often be given the opportunity to lead on areas of work."

Comments from recent StRs:

"I would fully recommend Public Health, Cheshire West & Chester Council as a future placement for Registrars and Clinical Research Fellows. The placement offers varied and extensive public health opportunities in line with the Curriculum."

"I joined the team as an ST4/5. The Public Health team is very welcoming and supportive, and there is a great spirit of openness, listening and learning together. As a final year Registrar, I really appreciated the focus on matching organisational priorities to areas where I needed to develop further and gain more senior experiences. My educational supervisor struck a pragmatic balance between achieving learning outcomes and making the transition to independent, consultant level working. Towards the end of training, I reported directly to the DPH and found this mentorship hugely helpful as I took on an Acting Consultant role and prepared to apply for Consultant Posts."

"I enjoyed being part of the senior team and felt my input was valued by colleagues and more widely, which reflects the positive view of Public Health in the Council and wider system. Taking on responsibility for major programme transformation and improvement projects gave me plentiful opportunities to collaborate and learn from key allied teams, including Intelligence and Engagement, Contracts, Commissioning, Finance and Legal Services. I also found the opportunities to work with providers and NHS commissioners to be especially good at this placement; the commitment to place-based working is another notable strength here."

"The importance of supporting personal and professional resilience is well recognised at Cheshire West and Chester, and the well-developed IT offer, and positive mobile and flexible working policies definitely helped me maintain a good work-life balance and get the most from this placement."

Useful links

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/finance/out_more/datasets_and_statistics/statistics

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

[Public health | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Our Public Health Annual reports are designed to be a concise and reader-friendly report of our work in the previous year. More recently we have produced both a written report with a short video to accompany it. The reports highlight key public health issues facing residents in CW&C that need tackling but framed in a way that supports people to make changes in their own lives.

Health and Wellbeing Board

[Committee details - Health and Wellbeing Board - Cheshire West & Cheshire Council \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](#)

The Board meets monthly and also hosts a separate additional wider partnership meeting involving a wide range of additional key partners who are key to delivering together improved health and wellbeing across CW&C.

Cheshire West Place Plan / Health and Wellbeing Strategy

[Cheshire West Place Plan | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Our Place Plan is our Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It sets out the strategic framework for improving health and reducing inequalities across Cheshire West and Chester. It builds on the work of the local organisations that form the Health and Wellbeing Board and is a result of our shared commitment to making the borough an even more healthy, vibrant and resilient place to live. The emphasis in this strategy is on prevention, improved coordination and integration of health and social care. This vision will be achieved through effective leadership of the Board, in collaboration with our partners, including the residents of the borough.

Want to find out more?

Contact

Professor Helen Bromley

Email

helen.bromley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Mobile

07824 820605