

KNOWSLEY PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALITY REGISTRAR TRAINING PROSPECTUS

JANUARY 2026

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER KNOWSLEY AS A TRAINING PLACEMENT?



Specialty Registrars are an important part of the Knowsley Public Health Team! Registrars are **well-supported** to positively impact population health and wellbeing, influence policy and address inequalities within the borough. Dependent on competency requirements, opportunities exist for registrars across **all aspects of public health** including health care public health, health protection, intelligence, commissioning, health improvement and wider determinants. Registrars' work plans are **co-developed, and aligned to learning needs** and interests.

The Public Health Team has a **strong and well-established relationship with the wider Council and other local partners**, providing valuable insights into working in a political environment, as well as working closely with NHS, social care, housing and community colleagues.

Knowsley Council was named as the **United Kingdom's "Local Authority of the Year"** in the 2024 Municipal Journal Awards. The Council also delivers a **truly unique and engaging two-day induction programme** for all new staff that supports trainees to understand how their role fits

into wider organisational priorities and to learn about the borough's culture, standards and key policies.

THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING – CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT KNOWSLEY?

Knowsley is a relatively **small Local Authority in North West England**, covering an area of 33 square miles. It has a resident population of approximately 162,565 and is situated just to the East of Liverpool, within easy reach of the rest of Merseyside, Cheshire and Manchester.

Knowsley's topography, and its motorway, combine to create a natural segregation between employment and housing areas, and clear definition between urban communities. **The borough comprises a belt of large suburban towns and villages: Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston and Halewood.** The countryside and urban fringe areas of Knowsley are designated as green belt, much of which is high grade farmland. The borough has a wide variety of public open spaces, with the largest of the borough's parks forming an integral part of the **Mersey Forest**, where thousands of trees have been planted to create attractive urban woodland. Over the years Knowsley has established strong green credentials, recognised through multiple awards for excellence for its parks and open spaces, and environment. It's also the home of **Knowsley Safari Park** (within the historic Knowsley Hall Estate), which receives over half a million visitors per year.

In recent years extensive progress has been made towards town centre regeneration plans, with the construction and opening of a retail development in Kirkby, more shop front improvements and food /drink outlets opening in Huyton Village Centre and the incredible **Shakespeare North Playhouse** opening in Prescot.

Knowsley is the **eleventh most deprived upper-tier local authority in England**, and our local population has been particularly affected by the current cost-of-living crisis. **Life expectancy in Knowsley is significantly lower than England** for both males and females. The latest data for 2022-24 for Knowsley shows the average life expectancy for males is 77.2 years, this is 2.3 years lower than England which is 79.5 years. For females for the same year for Knowsley it is 80.3 years, this is 3.0 years lower than England, which is 83.3 years. Deprivation affects life expectancy and there are **large differences between the least and most deprived areas of the borough**. In 2022-23, the male life expectancy of the most deprived 20% of Knowsley was 72.6 years, this is 8.4 years lower than the 20% least deprived which was 81.0 years. There is a similar gap for females with the most deprived 20% at 76.7 years, this being 7.0 years lower than the 20% least deprived which was 83.7 years.

Other notable characteristics of the borough's resident population include its comparatively small Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population, representing only around 3% of residents; a higher-than-average proportion of lone parent households, which are particularly concentrated in the Kirkby area; and a relatively low proportion of single person households.

Marmot Beacon Indicators: Knowsley 2026

A comparison to England



KNOWSLEY FACTS

162,565 people live in Knowsley Around 52% of the population live in the top 20% most deprived areas in England. A quarter of children under 16 live in poverty. Women can expect to live to **80.3 years** (2022-24) and men to **77.2 years** (2022-24). On average, men will spend 29% of their lives in poor health and women will spend 32% in poor health.

Key:

Statistical significance compared to England:

Better		Significant trend	
Similar			
Worse			
Missing			
		Improving	 
		No change	
		Getting worse	 

Sources: Last update: January 2026

Progress 8 score and Pupils who go on to achieve a Level 2 qualification at age 19 from the Department for Education (DfE). Employment and worklessness from NOMIS. Living wage from ONS. All other data from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles, 2024 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2024

Contact: matthew.grace@knowsley.gov.uk

With such challenges comes a **real opportunity to improve the lives of local communities exposed to significant structural inequalities** – excitingly the Public Health team has a core role in driving such change! The Knowsley Better Together partnership developed the **Knowsley 2030 Strategy**, which is a long-term plan to address inequalities and support residents and communities to thrive.

Health and wellbeing are corporate priorities in Knowsley, with a shared ambition that Knowsley becomes a place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need to thrive. The Council and the Public Health Team work well with a range of other departments and partners on improving such outcomes. Being a relatively small council creates **strong working relationships** to facilitate this. Knowsley also has a history of **strong public and partnership collaboration**. Through enabling community and voluntary networks, public health issues have a very high profile. Being a smaller borough allows us to focus on relationships with our partners, including our NHS partners. We are coterminous with Knowsley NHS Place.

Our most recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is available [here](#).

Our 2030 Evidence Base can be found [here](#) and the 2030 Strategy [here](#).

Our Public Health Annual report 2024-25 is available [here](#).



A short YouTube video which gives a flavour of the Council and its priorities is available [here](#).

WHAT DO OTHER REGISTRARS SAY ABOUT TRAINING AT KNOWSLEY?

Gathering feedback and insight into placement experience from our trainees is important to ensure that we continue to deliver a positive learning environment. Our most recent trainees have provided the following information about their time in the Knowsley Public Health Team:

"Knowsley Council is a truly welcoming place to work, and the Public Health team are warm, kind and incredibly knowledgeable. As an ST1, I've felt fully supported from day one. An ID badge, laptop, and a welcome meeting with every member of the team were all ready for me on my first day. I have been encouraged to take time to understand how the council works and to get out and about within the community. Team members have openly talked about their work and helped me explore what I might want to get involved in. Any work I've taken on has been agreed jointly with my supervisor and always with my portfolio needs at the center. My supervisor has also been very supportive of my MPH requirements. I'm really enjoying my time at Knowsley and feel lucky to be staying for two years. The team's expertise and support are already helping me build strong foundations as I grow in my role as a public health professional."

"Knowsley Council has been an excellent placement for developing as a Public Health Registrar. The team are genuinely friendly, supportive and generous with their time and expertise, and you get the chance to take on meaningful pieces of work with good supervision and input when you need it. One of the placement's strengths is the local context and the opportunity to work with a population facing high levels of deprivation and health inequalities. This brings a different set of challenges to other local authority placements in the sub-region, so even if you've done a local authority placement before, the breadth of work and the complexity of the issues provide huge scope to learn and develop as a public health professional."

Our current Registrar – Katie O'Farrell, ST1 – is happy to be contacted with any questions about her experience training with us at Katie.O'Farrell@knowsley.gov.uk.

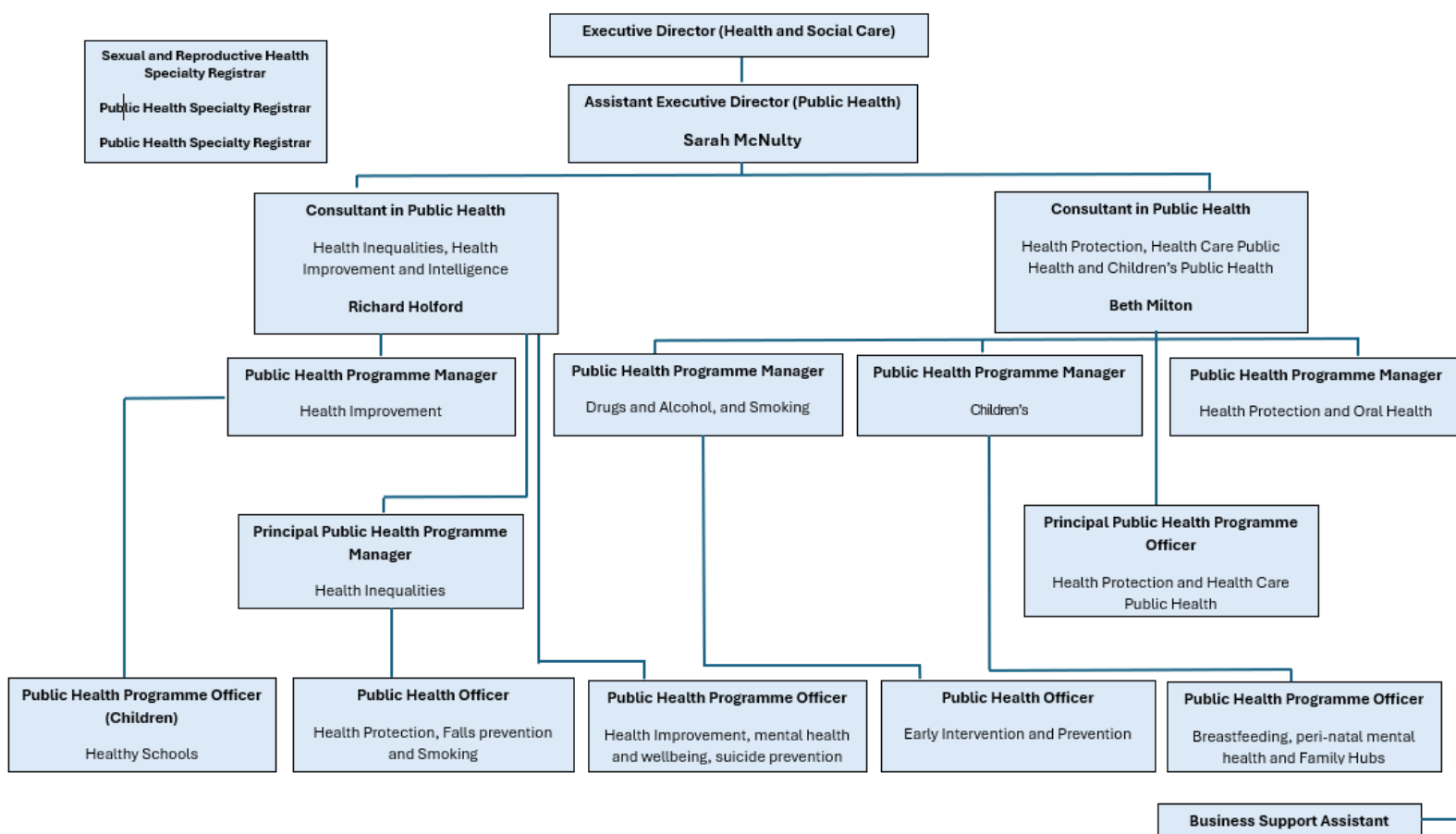
WHAT WORK HAVE REGISTRARS BEEN INVOLVED IN?

The Knowsley Public Health team are involved in and/or leading on a wide variety of work so there are lots of different opportunities to get involved in varied work. Recent trainee projects have included:

- leadership of the smoking and vaping strategy and action plan for Knowsley
- commissioning of oral health interventions
- a review of the pathway from drug and alcohol services to employment support
- an evaluation of the Health and Wellbeing strategy for 2020-2025
- completion of the local suicide audit and audit report
- development of a local CVD prevention plan.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE PRACTICALITIES OF TRAINING AT KNOWSLEY?

The Knowsley Public Health Team



The team also includes Intelligence Analysts who are part of the Council's Policy and Performance team. Public health commissioning is part of the Council's wider Whole Life Commissioning team.

Specialty Registrars are physically located with the friendly public health team. All Registrars are treated as members of the Public Health Team and will be allocated their own laptop and phone, if required, with **access to flexible and remote working** around business needs. The Knowsley Public Health Team base is the Council Office, Municipal Building, Archway Road in Huyton. This is close to Huyton Town Centre. There is free long-stay parking near the office. Secure cycle stores outside the office building are also available with changing facilities. The railway station is a 5-minute walk away and there are good road and public transport links. The council has **hybrid working, with the team usually coming together for shared office days – currently Tuesdays.**

Specialty Registrars are offered support throughout their placements with dedicated **one-to-one meetings with their educational supervisor**. Registrars are highly respected members of the team and are encouraged to participate in **monthly team meetings**, Public Health Strategy Group meetings and relevant Council and Partnership meetings. Senior Specialty Registrars can also attend Leadership meetings within the wider portfolio of the DPH. Specialty Registrars are encouraged to participate fully in the development opportunities offered via the School of Public Health.

WHO ARE THE ACCREDITED TRAINERS AT KNOWSLEY?

Knowsley has three accredited trainers with varied portfolios and experience:



Dr Sarah McNulty, Director of Public Health

Sarah leads the team and is the Council's statutory officer. Public Health sits within the Health and Social Care Directorate within the Council but there are well-established, effective working relationships across all directorates and strong political support. Sarah is the Cheshire and Merseyside Lead DPH for Smokefree, Screening and Immunisations, and CVD.



Richard Holford, Public Health Consultant

Rich's portfolio includes social determinants of health, public mental health, health improvement, reducing health inequalities and the Health and Wellbeing Board. He also leads public health service planning, workforce development, research, intelligence and performance. Rich has over 20 years' experience working in public health, becoming a consultant via the Specialist portfolio route.



Beth Milton, Public Health Consultant

Beth's portfolio includes health protection, health care public health, screening and immunisations, sexual health and children's public health. She is also interested in using behavioural insight to understand public health problems, and to develop initiatives. Beth trained in Cheshire and Merseyside. Prior to beginning specialty training, she worked in academic public health and carried out research into social inequalities in health and children's health.

For more information, or to arrange an informal chat, please contact:

Richard Holford - richard.holford@knowsley.gov.uk

Beth Milton - beth.milton@knowsley.gov.uk

Dr Sarah McNulty - sarah.mcnulty@knowsley.gov.uk