



LIVERPOOL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING PROSPECTUS

February 2023

Public Health Liverpool - an exciting Training Location

Liverpool is a wonderful international city with a great sense of pride amongst its population of 491,549 and a unique identity. In the 1800s, more than 30% of the world's trade was passing through its docks – now a World Heritage site. During the twentieth century, the city experienced a massive slump to its economy.



Since the middle of the 1990s, Liverpool has undergone major redevelopment and planning, to revive the economy, including the massive Liverpool ONE shopping and leisure project in the heart of the city. This was completed in 2008 when Liverpool was crowned European Capital of Culture. Culture remains a strong feature of Liverpool's identity, with highlights including the Liverpool Giants in 2012, 2014, and 2018, the relaunch of live events after the Covid19 pandemic with the Events Research Programme, the World Gymnastics in 2022 and Eurovision in 2023.

The Public Health team is based in the majestic Cunard Building—one of the Three Graces on the waterfront.

Public health challenges

Against this backdrop, Liverpool faces huge public health challenges. Liverpool is the third most deprived local authority in the country and almost 2/3 of the city falls into the most deprived national quintile. One in three children are living in poverty. Liverpool Local Authority has suffered hundreds of millions of pounds in budget cuts over the past decade, losing 65% of its core funding since 2010 – around £465 million over 12 years with additional savings required in the years ahead. Liverpool people continue to be hit particularly hard by reductions in funding of local amenities such as schools, children centres and changes in social security payments.



People have poorer health relative to others in England. Too many of our residents are dying prematurely from preventable causes, with residents expected to live three years less than the national average. There are also stark inequalities in health across the city, with people in the most deprived parts of Liverpool expected to live 9 years less than those in the least deprived areas. Due to the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, many households are struggling with rising living costs, including soaring energy bills and rising rent or mortgage payments, affecting their health and wellbeing.

At the age of 50 years, almost half of the population in Liverpool have at least one medical condition and by age 65 years 41% have two or more medical conditions. Early onset of multimorbidity in our working age population impacts on demand for services and, also, on productivity and the economy, perpetuating the challenges of poor health and unemployment. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused life expectancy in Liverpool to fall to the level of a decade ago. Healthy life expectancy in Liverpool is significantly below England, with men living in good health for 5 years less than the national average and 6 years less for women.

We can hail some encouraging signs of improvement. Smoking prevalence in Liverpool has fallen from 22.3% of adults in 2011 to 17.8% in 2021. This equates to almost 18,000 fewer smokers in the city. Infant mortality rates are reducing and teenage pregnancy rates are falling. Huge challenges remain and public health has a crucial role to play – working with partners to influence policy, investment, development and change to reduce the inequalities.

Our vision and work

As a team, we provide public health leadership, advice, influence and shaping of the whole system to protect and improve the health of the public, statutory advice to the NHS and we commission public health services. We use our public health skills to strategically support the whole council and other organisations to have maximum impact on the health and wellbeing of the population through the totality of the city's resources. We work to influence the entire health, care, and wider system towards building a city that is more conducive to good health & wellbeing, seeking innovation within existing delivery models and redesigning and re-procuring new integrated service delivery models to deliver better value for money interventions and help improve population health. Society wide changes that help make healthier choices the default and easier choices improve the health of those from lower socioeconomic groups the most. We will achieve more in improving and maintaining health through social and economic policies, transport infrastructure, parks, planning and regulation than can possibly be achieved by better treatment of those already suffering the consequences of failure to act on those factors.

The team consists of over 30 people in the local authority with diverse skills including public health consultants, principals and practitioners, data specialists, evidence reviewers and behavioural insight specialists. Work-programmes include health improvement, healthcare public health, health protection, embedding health in all policy approaches, addressing the wider determinants of health and the



commissioning of public health services. We have a strong focus on addressing inequalities in health across our work and we are an aspiring Marmot city.

See our public health annual report at <https://liverpool.gov.uk/council/public-health-liverpool/public-health-annual-report-phar/>

Our programmes are supported through strong intelligence, behavioural insight and communication functions.

Our partners and networks

We have excellent relationships across the council, with elected members and with local, regional and national partners including local business, faith and voluntary sector, Champs Public Health Collaborative, NHS partners, UKHSA, OHID and LGA. Liverpool is also part of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, which gives us an opportunity to learn and share ideas about effective policy and practice with cities across Europe.

Research and development opportunities

Developing our research and development strategy is a priority for 2023. We already have excellent links with the University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moore's and LSTM and the Pandemic Institute. We are actively involved in research and have a culture of evaluation of public health work. Registrars are encouraged to participate in research leading to publications.

Hear from our educational supervisors:

Dr Emer Coffey, Lead trainer and Consultant in Public Health Medicine – Health Protection

"Our three consultants and Director of Public Health are all accredited trainers. We strongly value our public health speciality registrars and will provide a supportive learning environment. We are very proud of what our specialty trainees achieve during their time with us. We will work with you to develop a learning plan based on your training and development needs and taking advantage of the opportunities available.

You will have a named educational supervisor and are likely to work on diverse projects across the scope of public health work with different project supervisors.

We can host up to 4 registrars at different stages in their training. When you are working for part A or B, there are trainers who are willing to help you prepare. We may also host trainees from other specialties gaining experience in public health."

"I lead the health protection function at Liverpool City Council. This has involved intense work to respond to the Covid pandemic. There remain many health protection challenges including recovery of our childhood immunisation programme, protection of vulnerable migrants, rebuilding our TB prevention and control programme, updating



and exercising outbreak plans and taking forward the learning from the Covid pandemic to strengthen our health protection arrangements across the system, including the control of infection in care homes.”

Professor Matthew Ashton, Director of Public Health

“I was appointed Director of Public Health for Liverpool City Council in April 2020 in a joint appointment with the University of Liverpool, where I am an Honorary Professor in the Department of Public Health and Policy.

I am passionate about bringing together the best people and partnerships in the region to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in the communities we serve, and works closely with other directors of public health across Cheshire and Merseyside, as part of the CHAMPS public health collaborative, where he is the current vice chair of the Collaborative, leading on Strategic Intelligence and Research, Communications, Social Marketing, and Strategic Partnerships.

I am also the chair of the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) policy advisory group on healthy places, as well as being the chair of the Faculty of Public Health special interest group for health improvement. I am the lead Director of Public Health for the Liverpool City Region Violence Reduction Partnership, and for Food Active, a healthy weight programme delivered by the Health Equalities Group, and commissioned by local authority public health teams, NHS organisations, and Public Health England teams at both regional and national level.”

Melisa Campbell, Consultant in Public Health – Children and Young People & Health Improvement.

“I’m passionate about working with families, children and young people to tackle inequalities and make Liverpool a Child Friendly City. I hold a broad portfolio covering children and young people, mental health and suicide prevention, health improvement programmes and related services such as tobacco control/smoking cessation services, and, also, the behavioural insight team. Working with me, trainees on placement at Liverpool have worked with various city partners such as Children’s Centres, Liverpool University, Behavioural Insight Team, Health Visiting services and Alder Hey Children’s Hospital to name a few.

We have used behavioural insight successfully to increase secondary school attendance, understand risk reduction around e-scooters, increase use of prevention

services in adult social care, increase understanding of the effects of poor air quality and reduce the sale of high sugar drinks in a retail setting. Current projects include raising awareness of suicide prevention and mental health support and increasing uptake in childhood immunisation.”

Dr Paula Parvulescu, Consultant in Public Health Medicine – Healthcare Public Health

“I lead the public health support to NHS and social partners, with a clear focus on population health. I am the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for long term conditions



under the One Liverpool programme, leading the development of a population health framework for long term conditions prevention and management in Liverpool, focusing on reducing inequalities and post-pandemic recovery of primary care long term conditions programmes. I am passionate about using data and evidence to shape decision-making across the NHS and social care and on encouraging a focus on high impact interventions that will improve peoples' lives. I lead on public health epidemiology and surveillance, as well as being the research and development lead for the Department.

We carry out statistical modelling of diseases and health trends, looking at the impact of interventions on current and future health needs. We have expertise in geo-demographic profiling of diseases and lifestyles to inform targeted interventions. We can identify where outcomes are poor and need to be improved, whether certain groups are more disadvantaged than others, where outcomes are good and can be built on further, what may be emerging issues for the future that we might need to prevent now. Through combining this intelligence with evidence of what interventions are effective, commissioners can target scarce resources to areas of greatest need, and where they will have the greatest impact."

This is what our trainees say:

Clare Baker

"I am an ST4 LTFT trainee in Public Health and have been based in Liverpool City Council since August 2022. In that time, I have gained varied experience leading work in infant feeding and child friendly cities, understanding the current situation and exploring how to best deliver change to improve outcomes, as well as shadowing commissioning processes. I particularly valued the thoughtful approach taken on which opportunities best fit my training needs and interests. I have enjoyed working with partners in multiple different organisations across the city and have been struck by the good reputation of the public health team and the widespread desire to keep improving.

I regularly attend senior management team meetings and am encouraged to contribute. The team's openness has given me excellent opportunities as a senior trainee to observe consultant-level planning, advocacy and decision-making, in the context of a time of great change for the council. The team as a whole have been very welcoming, keen to offer training and development opportunities, and supportive in a time when I've needed reasonable adjustments at work."

Lucy Marsden

"I joined Liverpool City Council's Public Health Department during the first two years of my training (ST1 & ST2) between 2020 - 2022, meaning that I joined during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. I was immediately embraced as part of the team, and able to benefit from unique training opportunities because of Liverpool's innovative partnerships and involvement in national pilots.

The LCC team are incredibly busy but always take the time to highlight opportunities for Registrars, whether that's being invited to interesting meetings, providing



opportunities to lead projects targeting specific learning outcomes, or joining some of the more social activities with the team outside of work. It is an incredibly warm and friendly office and being based in The Cunard Building is surely one of the best places to be in the North West!

The wide-ranging work means that there are plenty of opportunities to link with various members of the team. On my first day I was carrying out some of Liverpool's first COVID-19 contact tracing calls and began working on a plan to coordinate this work across the team, so I immediately felt I was providing a useful contribution to the response to the pandemic. Other stand out projects included leading elements of the SMART Release Pilot, working with University of Liverpool colleagues to co-lead author the SMART Release manuscript, which was published in the Lancet eClinicalMedicine, doing my first radio interview, supporting the commissioning of HIV services, carrying out an audit of suicides, developing a research plan, a literature review, and a healthy ageing needs assessment. I also offered various other support to the pandemic response, including visiting one of the first cruise ships to return to the city to review their COVID-19 safety measures. I regularly joined the Senior Management Team meetings and felt a valued member of the group. Outside of LCC related work, I was given great support to prepare for the Diplomat exam and for my other network roles.

I would very much recommend Liverpool as a training placement and would be happy to discuss my experience in more detail with anyone who is considering joining the team."

Get in touch:

If you would like to discuss Liverpool City Council, Public Health Department as a potential placement, please contact lead trainer Emer Coffey, via emer.coffey@liverpool.gov.uk If you are passionate about public health and want to make a difference, we would love to hear from you.