**PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING PROSPECTUS**

**Public Health Liverpool - an exciting Training Location**

Liverpool is a wonderful international city with a great sense of pride amongst its population of 469,700 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.

Against this backdrop, we have huge public health challenges. Liverpool is the most deprived local authority in the country and one third of its children are living in poverty. Liverpool people have been hit particularly hard by reductions in funding of the Local Authority 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 3 years less than the national average. There are also stark inequalities in health across the city, with men in the most deprived parts of Liverpool expected to live almost 11 years less than men in the least deprived areas.

Encouragingly, progress is being made in tackling health inequalities. People in the city are living longer than ever before. Over the past decade, life expectancy has increase by 2.8 years for women and 3.6 years for men. There has been a 46% reduction in premature mortality rate for cardiovascular disease since 2001-03. The inequality gap with England has reduced by more than half over the period. Premature deaths from Cancer have fallen by over 14% since 2001-03. In addition, the inequality gap with England has also reduced, falling by just over 13%. Smoking prevalence in Liverpool has fallen from 35% of adults in 2005 to 25% in 2013. This equates to almost 30,000 fewer smokers in the city. Childhood vaccination rates are excellent. Alcohol admission 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.

**The Public Health Department and training**

Public Health Liverpool is a unique public health team, combining the skills of public health consultants, data specialists, evidence reviewers and insight and social marketing specialists. We are working across sectors to increase the focus on prevention of ill-health and early detection. We have experience in implementing large scale innovative programmes, including around smoking and alcohol. We have large scale programmes to build skills in staff to deliver brief advice to improve health. We are working through local authority regulation to develop healthier local environments, for example, enforcing existing legislation to prevent individuals who are excessively drunk being served alcohol.

We have a strong advocacy function with current priority advocacy areas including advocating against e-cigarettes, advocating for minimum unit pricing for alcohol and advocating for sustainable walking and cycling initiatives which tackle health inequalities.

We have a strong intelligent analysis function and provide expert advice and guidance to commissioners and policy makers. We carry out statistical modelling of diseases and health trends and 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.

Customer insight and social marketing is rapidly rising up the agenda for public sector organisations. Public sector expectations of local services are growing, and only by truly understanding what is really important to people can a service be efficient and effective. Public Health Liverpool develop innovative insight techniques and deliver award-winning social marketing campaigns, with considerable success in improving services, changing health strategies, and impacting positively on health behaviours.

Liverpool has a strong public health team of 39 led by a widely experienced consultant team who are enthusiastic about training. We strongly value our public health speciality registrars, and encourage and support registrars to take on new challenges. Your portfolio will be based on your training and development needs and the opportunities available. Registrars have a named trainer but have the opportunity to work on diverse projects supervised by different consultants.

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. The Public Health team is based in the city-centre. We are delighted to be relocating to the majestic Cunard Building—one of the Three Graces on the waterfront in the summer of 2016.

Our setting in local government is an exciting place to learn. We have excellent relationships across the council and with elected members, and with Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health England, NHS England and key partners. As a team, we continue to learn how best to work in new ways to influence the health of the population. The devolution deal for Liverpool City Region brings a number of new opportunities to influence population health.

There are good links, including joint training positions, with the academic departments in Liverpool University and John Moores’ University, and we are part of an active research and development group lead by Liverpool CCG. Registrars are encouraged to participate in academic forums.

In these times of change, we will ensure that the training remains relevant and you get a robust training experience to equip you for the future.

**Current trainers**

Our consultant team including Director of Public Health are all accredited trainers.

**Dr Sandra Davies**, Director of Public Health

Sandra is the principal advisor on health and wellbeing to the local authority, and sits on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Sandra leads the prevention strand of the ambitious Healthy Liverpool programme of Liverpool CCG which aims to transform health within the city. A priority is to get most people in the city more active. Sandra also leads on a number of areas for Cheshire and Merseyside, including children and young people’s mental health and she also chairs the Cheshire and Merseyside TB Control Group. There are also opportunities for registrars to get involved in work with the Merseyside Police Commissioner.

**Mr Martin Smith,** Consultant in Public Health – Wider Determinants.

Martin leads on the wider determinants function within public health with a Brief to support the embedding of public health within the local authority setting across the upstream areas such as housing, planning, transport and community safety. This includes raising awareness of the wider determinants to influence colleagues and stakeholders in their activities and also lead the commissioning of public health commissioned services in order to support preventive/upstream approaches. The remit is wide ranging with other key areas of work including the support and development of the Health and Wellbeing Board, children and families, workplace wellbeing and housing.

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

Paula leads the public health support to Liverpool CCG and takes a lead on population healthcare. She has responsibility for the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, oversees the work of the intelligence and health needs assessment team and takes an active role in the development of the insight and social marketing projects in the department. In her role, she works with NHS commissioners to make sure that a population approach is undertaken and pathways and models of care are based on best available evidence. Current workstreams with which registrars can get involved include cancer, end of life, long term conditions, self-care, cancer screening and much more.

**Dr Emer Coffey,** Associate Director of Public Health – Health Protection, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Emer leads on the health protection function of the Local Authority, overseeing health protection arrangements across the city, and advising the CCG on health protection issues. Emer also provides consultant leadership for team leading strategic work on drugs, alcohol, sexual health, adult health improvement including smoking, and public health neighbourhood working.

There are lots of exciting opportunities for registrars to work with partners across all of these areas, including local work to tackle antimicrobial resistance, quality improvement work to improve vaccination uptake, health emergency planning and involvement in incidents, outbreaks and exercises, work to increase HIV testing, as we are now a high HIV prevalence area, and multiagency work on alcohol.

**Experience of current trainees – Matt Saunders and Beth Milton:**

“*Liverpool is an exciting and vibrant city in which to train in public health, with a dynamic and expert public health team. It is an excellent training location for registrars, with many opportunities to engage with projects across the footprint of the city and to take influential leading roles in key areas of work alongside specialist staff. There are opportunities to get involved with work across the breadth of public health disciplines (including opportunities in health protection, wider determinants, commissioning, and health improvement). The persistent public health challenges faced by the city present a real opportunity to affect change and to have a lasting impact on the health of some of the country’s most disadvantaged people.”*

*“We have been working on projects which include updating the local pandemic influenza plan, improving engagement with the Health and Wellbeing Board, evaluating MMR provision for unimmunised women of childbearing age, benchmarking services which tackle Excess Winter Deaths, assessing the health needs of school children needing additional support, and working with academic partners to produce evidence-based recommendations for the Liverpool devolution bid.”*

**Contact**

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of coming to work in the public health department at Liverpool City Council, please contact Dr Emer Coffey, care of lori.clarke@liverpool.gov.uk

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