

NHS England (North West Region) Public Health Training Prospectus 2026



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1. Introduction

This document outlines the specialist public health training opportunities available at NHS England (NHSE) North West. This prospectus should be read in conjunction with the Faculty of Public Health, [Public Health Specialty Training Curriculum 2022](#) and with reference to the [North West School of Public Health website](#)¹.

2. Placements

NHS England leads the National Health Service in England. Its vision is for high quality healthcare for all.

Our regional teams are responsible for the quality, financial and operational performance of all NHS organisations in their region, drawing on the expertise and support of our corporate teams to improve services for patients and support local transformation. They also support the identity and development of integrated care systems.

NHS North West is one of seven regional teams across the country.

We support the commissioning and delivery of high-quality services and directly commission some services across Cheshire and Merseyside, Greater Manchester, and Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Our work involves supporting NHS trusts and integrated care boards (ICBs) in the area to ensure that together we provide excellent services that meet the needs of patients.

Registrars can undertake a placement at NHSE North West for a period of six months to one year. Furthermore, short term project-based training may also be available. The training opportunities available are of relevance to registrars planning a public health career including (but not limited to) those specifically pursuing a healthcare public health career. NHSE North West placements are most suitable for those at ST4 training and above.

Subject to legislation being passed, NHS England will be integrating with the Department for Health and Social Care. This transition will occur during 2026 and early 2027.

3. Locations

Registrars would be placed with the NHSE North West Healthcare Public Health Team. The NHSE Healthcare Public Health Team generally adopt a hybrid form of working combining home-based and office-based working. NHSE has a flexible working policy in place and the principles of this would apply to any registrars on placement with us.

Registrars will be formally attached to one of the NHSE offices as their base. These include:

Greater Manchester Office

3 Piccadilly Place
London Road
Manchester
M1 3BN

Cheshire and Merseyside Office

Regatta Place
Summers Road
Brunswick Business Park
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 4BL

Lancashire and South Cumbria Office

Preston County Hall
Fishergate
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 8XJ

It is possible that the Cheshire and Merseyside base will change during 2026.

4. Healthcare Public Health at NHS England North West

Healthcare Public Health (HCPH) is one of the three core domains of specialist and specialised public health practice (along with health protection and health improvement). It is concerned with maximising the population benefits of healthcare while meeting the needs of individuals and groups through prioritising available resources, preventing both disease and its complications, and by improving health-related outcomes through design, access, utilisation and evaluation of effective and efficient healthcare interventions and pathways of treatment and care. It is also a key partnership specialty in improving health service quality and clinical governance.

The Healthcare Public Health Directorate is responsible for delivering on prevention, healthcare inequalities improvement, the Greener NHS Programme and dental public health. It also delivers on specialist regional functions including public health leadership, advice and support around specialised commissioning, EPRR and population health intelligence. In addition, the team also play a role in NHSE corporate functions and wider system leadership.

The Team is led by the Director of Healthcare Public Health who reports to the North West Regional Director of Public Health. The North West Regional Director of Public Health is jointly appointed by and accountable to NHSE and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Department of Health and Social Care.

The Team maintains close working relationships with OHID through Public Health North West (which is led by the North West Regional Director of Public Health). Close working relationship are also maintained with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) as well as other external partners such as local authorities, academic institutions, NHS commissioners and providers and other NHS organisations and teams including Academic Health Science Networks and the North West Clinical Senate.

5. Training Opportunities

There are potential opportunities to address all nine domains highlighted in the current curriculum² during the placement:

- Use of public health intelligence to survey and assess a population's health and wellbeing
- Assessing the evidence of effectiveness of interventions, programmes and services intended to improve the health or wellbeing of individuals or populations
- Policy and strategy development and implementation
- Strategic leadership and collaborative working for health
- Health Improvement, Determinants of Health, and Health Communication
- Health Protection
- Health and Care Public Health
- Academic Public Health
- Integration and Application of Competences for Consultant Practice

StRs are given the opportunity to attend fortnightly team meetings as well as topic or setting-specific meetings and to present to and attend the Healthcare Public Health Directorate's Senior Leadership Team and the Public Health North West extended Senior Leadership Team.

There are further opportunities to attend and contribute to regional NHSE meetings. Participation in formal learning opportunities such as local, regional and national training is encouraged and sufficient time to complete other registrar commitments is given.

6. Supervision and Induction

Each StR will have an educational supervisor. There are currently three active accredited Educational Supervisors within the team.

The educational supervisor keeps an overview of a registrar's training needs throughout the time on the placement. Due to the varied nature of the work, other trainers will be available as project supervisors, and people who are not accredited trainers or from professional groups outside of public health may also help deliver specific training and supervision in areas where they have expertise (in agreement with the educational supervisor).

The registrar's work programme will be tailored to be appropriate to the registrar's learning needs including their stage of training. The progress of the StR will be monitored throughout the placement via regular meetings with the educational and/or project supervisor.

When StRs start their placement at NHSE they will undergo an induction programme so that they can meet key people and find out about their roles and work. During this time, along with their educational supervisor, they will identify opportunities to meet their learning outcomes. This will be addressed using a learning agreement to outline projects, timeframes, outcomes and the date of the next review.

7. Administration

StRs will have use of a laptop and when in the office, the use of a desk through desk booking arrangements. Some business administration support may be provided if required, linked to relevant case or project work. Computer software includes Microsoft Office and other packages as appropriate. Microsoft Teams facilities are available and are well used.

The usual HR arrangements for StRs will be in place during the attachment. No additional funding will be available for the attachment.

There is a nationally established process for onboarding public health registrars in NHSE.

8. Type of work

Healthcare Public Health Team members lead public health work on specific areas including Prevention, Health Inequalities, Specialist Regional Functions, Dental Public Health and Greener NHS. StR colleagues are encouraged to gain experience in working across the breadth of the team's portfolio. In addition, colleagues work closely with other teams and directorates in NHSE NW e.g., Nursing, Strategy & Transformation and Commissioning. Team members also work with named Integrated Care Systems in the North West.

² [Curriculum - FPH - Faculty of Public Health](#)

The Healthcare Public Health Team also encompasses the health and justice agenda which provides opportunities for working closely with the prison health service. The scope of the work in health and justice covers all three dimensions of public health, i.e. health protection, health and wellbeing and healthcare public health. The Healthcare Public Health Team has a key role in providing expert public health advice, guidance and support tools to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and NHSE in its commissioning of services for those in contact with the criminal justice system. In addition, the dental public health team is the principal provider of dental public health expertise and advice in the North West. The dental public health team also train StRs in dental public health; this follows the Royal College of Surgeons training guidance, thus is not covered by this prospectus.

Other healthcare public health functions are located within the Commissioning Directorate of NHSE NW there may be opportunities for project-based work with these teams on a case-by-case basis – though this can not be guaranteed. For example, the Screening and Immunisation Team are responsible for providing expert advice and leadership to Section 7a services commissioned by NHS England. Furthermore, colleagues offer professional public health clinical expertise to support the commissioning of specialised services by NHSE NW. Registrars can gain training and experience with the screening and decision-making regarding individual funding requests (IFRs) as well as specific projects regarding specialised services. Registrars will have the opportunity to work closely with the regional OHID team including colleagues within the Health Improvement Team and the Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service

Examples of previous projects registrars have led, supported and participated in include:

- Developing a resource for providers on health inequalities in elective recovery
- Authoring a review into improving antenatal early booking in the North West
- Developing an evaluation guide into a probation-based mental health service
- Leading the development of a HEAT Core20PLUS5 toolkit
- Scoping inclusion health needs in the North West and developing an accompanying webinar
- Assessing service model delivery of sexual health services in North West prisons
- Mapping green social prescribing initiatives across the North West
- Evaluating Hepatitis C screening in prisons
- Establishing a green plan for NHS England North West

- Participating in a National Individual Funding Request (IFR) screening training and panel

9. Further information

For an informal conversation about potential placements, please contact:

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