

North West Ambulance Service – Training Prospectus

1. Introduction

This prospectus outlines the specialist public health training opportunities available at North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and provides details of what specialty registrars (StRs) in public health can expect when considering an attachment.

This prospectus should be read in conjunction with the Faculty of Public Health, Public Health Specialty Training Curriculum 2010¹ and Health Education North West Public Health website².

2. About NWAS

NWAS was established on 1 July 2006 with merger of four legacy ambulance services. It covers an area of over 5,400 square miles across five counties, serving a population of almost eight million people. There are three parts to the NWAS service:

- Urgent and emergency care (999)
- Patient transport to and from non-emergency medical appointments (PTS)
- Provision of health information, advice and signposting to patients (NHS 111)

NWAS is part of Northern Ambulance Alliance with Yorkshire and North East Ambulance services. The NWAS footprint covers four STPs/ICSSs in the North West: West, North and East Cumbria; Lancashire and South Cumbria; Greater Manchester; Cheshire and Merseyside. The trust operates over 1,000 vehicles on both emergency and non-emergency operations. As at the end of May 2019, the trust has 5,953 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff.

In 2018/19 NWAS received 1.3 million 999 calls, 1.5 million NHS 111 calls and they delivered 1.5 million PTS journeys.

3. Placement location

The trust headquarters is in Bolton, and there are three area offices covering Cheshire and Merseyside (Speke, Liverpool), Greater Manchester (Parkway) and Cumbria & Lancashire (Preston). Registrars could be based at any of these locations.

4. Placements available

- Short-term project attachments may be available during training
- Long-term NWAS placement (up to 1 year or less than full time equivalent)

Training placements could be offered at any stage of training, but it is recommended that the Part A examinations are completed first.

5. Competencies

All competencies required for StRs can potentially be addressed across various projects. These include:

- surveillance and assessment of the population's health and well-being

¹ <http://www.fph.org.uk/uploads/2010%20MASTER%20PH%20Curriculum.pdf>

² <http://www.merseydeanery.nhs.uk/currently-in-training>

- assessing the evidence of effectiveness of health and healthcare interventions, programmes and services
- policy and strategy development and implementation
- strategic leadership and collaborative working for health
- health and wellbeing
- health protection
- health and social service quality
- public health intelligence
- academic public health

6. Training opportunities

Where possible/relevant, StRs on attachment in NWAS are given the opportunity to attend:

- NWAS board meetings
- Regional/national meetings
- Ad hoc local, regional and national training
- Ambulance ride along/shadowing to understand the service

StRs will get the opportunity to work with senior management at NWAS, including directors. The Executive Medical Director and Consultant Paramedic (Medical Directorate) would provide the direct support.

7. What type of projects are available?

The work available is likely to include:

- Developing NWAS public health strategy
- Data analysis and interpretation to inform delivery across blue light and patient transport services
- Translating evidence into practice to improve health
- Working with partners to build networks to share good practice and develop shared work programmes
- Utilising different implementation methods to improve public health outcomes
- Leading and supporting evaluation of interventions

There are opportunities to be involved with projects across a variety of topic areas, such as: frequent callers, knife crime, analysis of suicide data, falls prevention. Given the number of patient contacts that NWAS makes per year, service changes have the potential to impact a significant number of the population, potentially across the whole North West footprint.

8. Supervision & Induction

NWAS is not currently an accredited training location and does not yet employ a public health consultant³. StRs will require an educational supervisor from another training location to oversee their training needs throughout the time at NWAS. This should be negotiated locally with the relevant TPD prior to applying for a long-term placement at NWAS. StRs doing short-term projects at NWAS will be provided with educational supervisor from their substantive placement.

³ In the longer term, NWAS would like to (part) fund a PH consultant post, so there is a sustainable plan for 'in house' supervision.

The NWAS Medical Director will act as a local trainer for StRs during their placement at NWAS. The progress of the StR will be monitored throughout the attachment via regular meetings with the medical director (at least 1 hour per month). StRs should also maintain regular contact with their educational supervisor.

When StRs start their placement, they will undergo an induction programme for two to three weeks so that they can meet key people and find out what is happening across the organisation. During this time, along with their trainer and educational supervisor, they will identify opportunities to meet some of their public health training needs. This will be addressed using a learning agreement to outline projects, timeframes, outcomes and the date of the next review.

9. Administration

The StR will have use of a desk, mobile phone and laptop. 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. All StRs are able to access university libraries using their NHS ID. Teleconference and video conference facilities are available.

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

10. Further information

Please contact Chris Grant, NWAS Medical Director for more information about this placement opportunity - Chris.Grant@nwas.nhs.uk or Christine Camacho, Public Health registrar, on placement at NWAS from September 2020-2022 – c.camacho@nhs.net