

North West Ambulance Service - Training Prospectus

1. Introduction

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

2. About NWS

NWS 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 main services provided by NWS:

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

NWS is part of Northern Ambulance Alliance with Yorkshire and North East Ambulance services, and is also part of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE), established in 2011 to provide the UK's statutory ambulance services with an organisation that can support them in the implementation of nationally agreed policy.

The NWS footprint spans across three STPs/ICSs in the North West: West, Greater Manchester; Cheshire and Merseyside; Lancashire and South Cumbria; Cumberland County which sits in North and East Cumbria ICB, and Glossop Town, which sits in Derbyshire ICS.

In 2024/25 the trust had more than 7,000 members of staff across operations and corporate services, and over 1,200 volunteers working as community first responders, volunteer car drivers and members of our public patient panel, who give up their free time to support our services and shape the decisions we make.

In 2024/25 NWS received 1.4 million calls to 999, 1.9 million calls to 111, completed 1.5 million PTS journeys, and responded to 1.1 million emergency PES incidents. Of the calls received to 999, NWS resolved 15% of these through Hear and Treat, and 28% through See and Treat, supporting management of the demand in A&E and other Urgent and Emergency Centres by resolving these incidents without the need to convey patients.

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. Equally, NWS supports agile and hybrid working.

4. Placements available

- 2-days projects, up to one year, as part of a split training.
- Training placements could be offered at any stage of training, but it is recommended that the Part A examinations are completed first.
- Up to 2 placements in this modality available per year.

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
- 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
- The Consultant Paramedic (Clinical Directorate) and the Public Health Manager would provide direct support.

7. What type of projects are available?

The work available is likely to include:

- Supporting delivery of the NWAS Trust Strategy and associated Strategic Plans, particularly in relation to health inequalities priorities
- Opportunities to influence strategy and culture re public health through attendance at Public Health Oversight Group and working with wider colleagues outside that from 111, 999 and PTS
- Data analysis and interpretation to inform delivery across blue light, patient transport services and NHS 111
- Developing public health intelligence through the utilisation and improvement of the NWAS Population Health dashboards
- 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
- Leading and supporting training and education to support capacity and capability building for public health
- Leading and supporting work to promote and progress Social Value and Anchor Institution principles

- There are opportunities to be involved with projects across a variety of clinical and health inclusion group areas, such as: maternity, respiratory, cardiovascular, mental health, frailty, end-of-life care, people with limited English proficiency. 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 consultant, however it is possible to offer a project working up to 2-days per week, alongside projects in an accredited host placement organisation across the North West.

Educational supervision and oversight of training needs will be provided by the Manchester Foundation Trust's Public Health Consultant. This should be negotiated locally with the host placement organisation. The Public Health Manager will act as a day-to-day local trainer for StRs during their placement at NWAS.

A suitable project, aligned to the StR educational needs and to NWAS strategic priorities for health inequalities will need to be identified prior to starting at NWAS. This will be identified through conversations with the local trainer and educational supervisor.

The progress of the StR will be monitored throughout the attachment via regular meetings with the Local Trainer (at least 1 hour per month), and StRs will also maintain regular contact with their educational supervisor (at least 1 hour per month).

When StRs start a project at NWAS, they will undergo an induction programme for two to three weeks so that they can meet key people in their project and learn about the wider organisation.

9. Administration

The Trust support agile and hybrid working. StRs will have the possibility of using a desk and a Trust laptop.. Computer software includes Microsoft Office and other packages as appropriate. All StRs are able to access university libraries using their NHS ID, at NWAS, StRs will also have access to the Library Knowledge Service for NHS Ambulance Services in England (LKS ASE). Teleconference and video conference facilities are available. An honorary contract will be provided. No additional funding will be available for the attachment.

10. Further information

- Local Trainer: Claudia Soiland-Reyes, NWAS Public Health Manager, claudia.soiland-reyes@nwas.nhs.uk
- Educational Supervisor: Simon Watts, Manchester Foundation Trust Public Health Consultant and NWAS Honorary Public Health Consultant, simon.watts@mft.nhs.uk.