

Profile of Cheshire and Merseyside as a Training Zone in the North West

December 2018

1. Local Authority Placements

Cheshire and Merseyside offers registrars training placements in a diverse mixture of Local Authorities, offering the potential to work in areas of affluence and deprivation and both urban and rural locations. For example, Liverpool offers registrars experience of working to improve public health within a dense urban population, while East Cheshire offers registrars a different public health challenge of working to improve the health of a more rural population.

The region also encompasses the industrial areas of Warrington, Halton, St Helens, Knowsley and West Cheshire; and coastal regions such as Sefton and the Wirral, all of which contain a diverse mixture of both deprived and affluent areas. Liverpool City Region has recently benefitted from a Devolution Deal, while the Cheshire authorities work closely on a Public Sector Transformation Board. **The North West School operates a zonal system. Once allocated to their first training location in the C&M zone, trainees' future rotations are restricted to that zone.**



2. Public Health England

Cheshire and Merseyside offices of Public Health England (PHE) North West offer training in the area of health protection, environmental public health and emergency planning. There is also the opportunity for trainees to become involved in regional epidemiology work, healthcare public health and health improvement from a PHE perspective. PHE is a popular training location, so placements are organised well in advance.

Cheshire and Merseyside Immunisation and Screening Team can also host split placements with local authorities or another department in PHE. The team offers training in commissioning and delivery of local immunisation and screening programmes; and provides the opportunity to work with Public Health England, NHS England and local authorities on the wider footprint.

3. Academic

The University of Liverpool runs the Master of Public Health course, which many of the specialty registrars undertake in their first year. The University also provides academic tutors for all registrars in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The quarterly Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Hub brings together all trainees and trainers who can attend; and is run in a structured interactive format to encourage participation and shared learning. The hub includes academic and professional inputs. As well as time limited placements in universities, trainees interested in an academic career can apply for a clinical fellow post employed by one of the universities; as advertised.

Several other academic institutions in Cheshire and Merseyside have public health interests working closely with the Public Health training programme; including the North West Public Health Observatory part of Public Health England's Knowledge and Intelligence Team based in Liverpool. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is an accredited training location, which offers training opportunities in the field of international health and infectious diseases. All universities offer medical education training, and HEE funds trainees to undertake modules at Edge Hill University.

4. Other Training Opportunities

NHS England (Specialised Commissioning) offers training opportunities in specialised commissioning <http://www.england.nhs.uk/>

The Cheshire & Merseyside Champs Public Health Collaborative Service have been working together for 15 years. Champs co-ordinate public health development sessions on key topics such as health inequalities and health promotion, which Cheshire and Merseyside registrars can attend. There are also opportunities for registrars to work on public health projects across local authorities; and can be based within the service for senior trainee leadership experience <http://www.champspublichealth.com/>

Other placements and projects in Cheshire and Merseyside can be organised locally. The registrar is supervised on a split placement by their allocated educational supervisor and are based in an accredited location. Examples include community and NHS hospital trusts, or a charity or partner organisation. Such placements are usually arranged by the trainee themselves (usually a senior trainee) and supported by their educational supervisor and Training Programme Director.

Several trainees have also successfully won fellowships e.g. academic fellowships, NIHR, or taken out of programme experience with WHO and other nationally advertised opportunities.