



St Helens Public Health: Training Location Prospectus

Why Train in Public Health at St Helens Council?

If you want to....

- Have an opportunity to take on real responsibility and be involved with all aspects of public health
- Be involved in varied programmes of work and to be a valued and core member of the team.
- Work in a council where public health has a high profile, influence and strong political support
- Consultant level experience at ST4 & ST5
- Have the opportunity to be part of a new and dynamic forward thinking public health team
- Experience good partnerships with CCG, provider, local communities, partners & other council departments
- Commission award winning public health programmes and services
- Work in modern office with good transport links
- Be supported and challenged to achieve all that you can to prepare you for the next step in your career



.... then St Helens is the place for you.

What Registrars Say About St Helens

My supervisor took an interest in my learning needs and career aspirations right from the outset. It has been brilliant to have a joint plan to ensure I develop my skills, while having the opportunity to do a broad range of work.

There is a friendly working environment within the public health team, they have made me feel very welcome. There's a strong focus on working together to make a difference for the people of St Helens.

It's incredibly motivating to work in St Helens, because public health is clearly valued across the council. To be in a team that's growing and developing, and is well-integrated with other teams, is a really positive experience.

Introduction to St Helens

St Helens is a metropolitan borough halfway between Manchester and Liverpool. Whilst the current population of 177,188 (2014 mid-year estimate, ONS) has remained fairly static over the past decade, it is predicted that the population will increase to 189,000 by 2035 (ONS Population Projections, 2014).

St. Helens has a slightly older population distribution, with higher mean and median ages, compared with England overall (2011 Census). In St. Helens 98% of the population are 'white', and a further 1.1% are 'Asian/Asian British' (2011 Census). It is ranked the 52nd most deprived local authority in England out of 326, with 28 areas ranked in the most deprived 10% nationally and 3 areas ranked in the 10% least deprived nationally (2015 data). 10% of the economically active population are unemployed (JSNA 2015).

Life expectancy at birth has increased markedly over the last 30 years, and is now 77.7 years for men and 81.5 years for women. However, between the least and most deprived areas in St Helens, there is 10.7 years difference in male life expectancy, and 9.1 years difference in female life expectancy (JSNA 2015). The most common causes of mortality are cancer (30%), cardiovascular disease (26%) and respiratory disease (16%) (JSNA 2015).



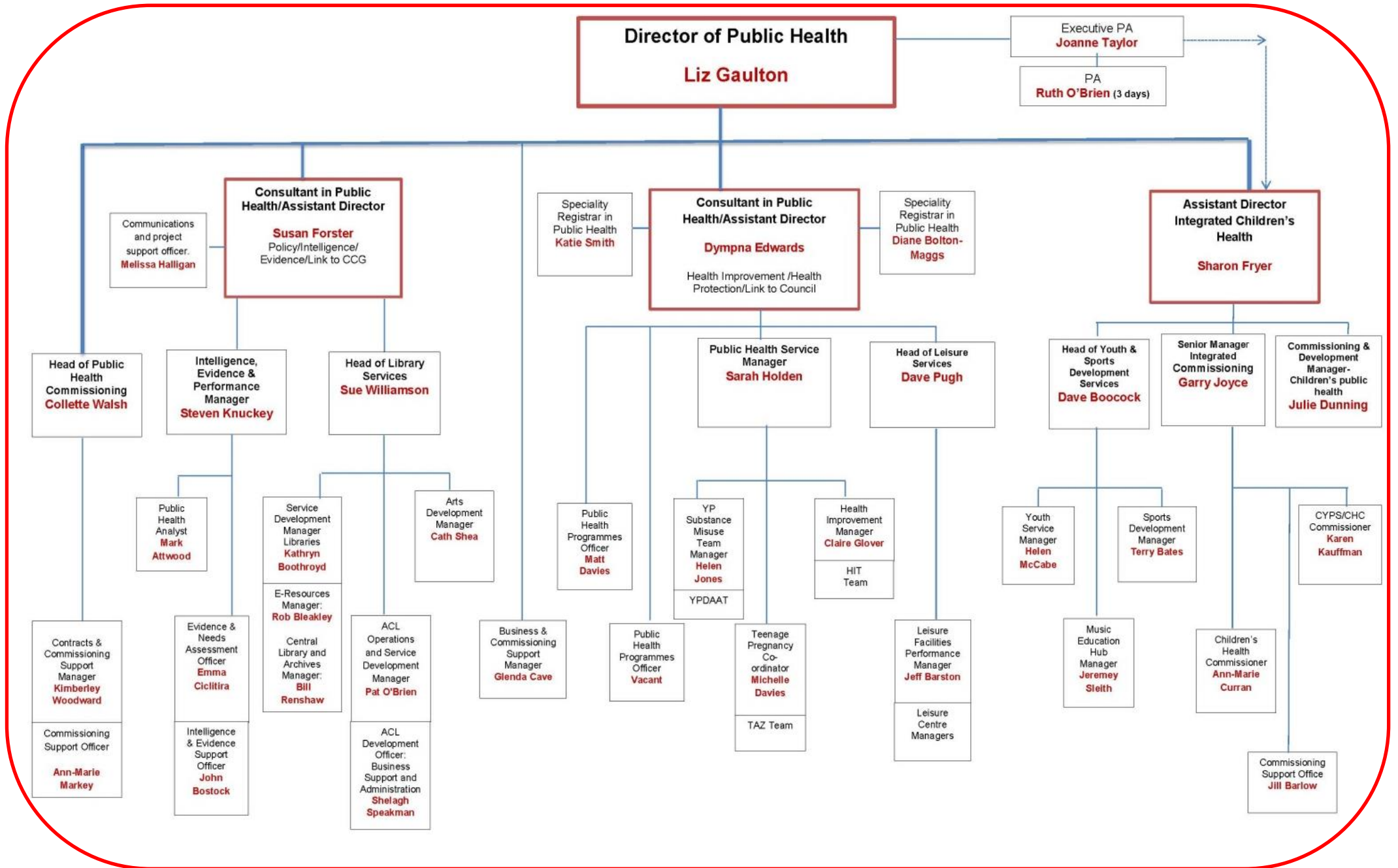
St Helens as a Training Location

Public health in St Helens is new and dynamic. Liz Gaulton, the Director of Public Health has been in post since May 2012. Since then the new St Helens team has been formed partly from the former Halton and St Helens PCT public health team and has been expanded greatly with new recruits to form a robust, forward facing team. The public health team has good relationships with both the CCG and local providers. There are excellent working relationships at strategic and operational level across the Council and the local voluntary sector. St Helens public health team has its own cabinet elected member and is organisationally based in the Chief Executives Department.

There is a strong history of public health training in St Helens. St Helens Council is an Investors in People organisation, with an ethos that supports training and development. The public health team has provided training opportunities for specialty registrars, graduate trainees, trainee analysts and community paediatricians over the years.

The public health team are based in a light, modern, open plan office alongside children and young people's services. The office is very near St Helens Central railway station, town centre, shops and also is easily accessible by car. St Helens Public Health team has its own cabinet elected member and is organisationally based in the Chief Executives Department. Registrars are provided with their own desk, computer, and telephone, while the office has kitchen facilities and there is lift access to all floors. The office has cycle storage and showers, and car parking spaces can be provided. Flexible working hours can be accommodated and occasional home working is possible.

The Public Health Team in St Helens



Educational Supervision

There are two public health trainers, Dympna Edwards and Sue Forster. Other team members are experienced in supervision and training. The Director of Public Health moves to a new post in April 2016 and interim arrangements will be put in place. This provides an important opportunity for registrars in years 4 and 5 to gain consultant level experience. There is an integrated children's commissioning team within public health with members from St Helens CCG, children's services and public health. Public Health manages three wellbeing services - leisure services, libraries and sports development we are working to improve the impact of these services on community wellbeing.

- **Liz Gaulton - Director of Public Health**

Liz has been DPH since 2012 and has worked in Local Authorities for a number of years. She has a background in child health and is an experienced trainer. Liz leads on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Group, Health and Wellbeing strategy and liaison with the portfolio holder for public health.

Liz says "Public health is at the heart of St Helens council. This is a good place to work in public health. It is a new team and an exciting time to work in public health. I am committed to training and would welcome specialty registrars to become part of our growing team".



- **Dympna Edwards - Assistant Director & Lead trainer**

Dympna is an experienced trainer in public health and dental public health for 12 years and has been lead trainer for a number of years. She leads on health improvement, health protection and wider determinants of health. She also manages Leisure and Healthy Living services. There are lots of opportunities to get experience of health protection, including environmental health issues, commissioning and reviewing health improvement services and developing new services.

Dympna says "St Helens has a strong sense of place and everyone is committed to making a difference to local people. St Helens has a can do culture and appreciates the contribution of public health registrars. They are valued members of the team".



- **Susan Forster - Assistant Director**

Sue leads on Health intelligence and advises the NHS on health service commissioning. She works closely with the CCG and currently leads on hypertension, NHS Health Checks, the CCG Quality Contract, cancer, mental wellbeing and suicide prevention. Sue also provides support on serious untoward incidents, Individual Funding Requests and medicines management. She leads on performance, intelligence, needs assessments, equity audits and the development of the JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. She has a small team that support on performance, evidence and intelligence, needs assessment and communications. She also manages library services, arts and culture and adult community learning.

Sue says "It is an exciting opportunity coming to work in St Helens. We have a dynamic team embedded within the Local Authority. Public health have taken on additional services where there are opportunities to embrace wellbeing and public health across the portfolio and work in a far more integrated way. The links with the CCG are strong which also aids both our support to the CCG and their support to us especially around medicines management. There are lots of opportunities for development of public health within the Local Authority".



What will St Helens do for me?

Within St Helens you will be supported to meet your educational needs and will receive a broad experience of public health. You will also be challenged to take on new roles and responsibilities working at the heart of the council and with partner organisations. Although some of the work will be project based you will be a core member of the public health team, fully involved in the work of the council to provide you with the best experience and opportunities to develop. If this is what you are looking for, then St Helens is the place for you.



Recent Registrar Project Examples



- Health needs assessment of loneliness in older people in the borough as part of a scrutiny review
- Review of smoking cessation services for pregnant women
- Creation of an Air Quality Strategy in collaboration with colleagues from a variety of council departments and PHE
- Service review of healthy early years health promotion services delivered by the council Health Living service
- Leading on sexual health and taking forward Sexual Health Strategy
- Developing and implementing a Hepatitis C pathway across services
- Developing and implementing an infant feeding strategy
- Tendering for weight management services & tobacco control services

Further Information

The public health team are located at Atlas House, 2 Corporation Street, St Helens, WA9 1LD. It is within 5 minutes' walk of St Helens Central Railway Station and St Helens Bus Station. A free car parking pass can be provided for Chalon Way multi-storey car park, which is within 15 minutes' walk. A pay and display car park is located on Parr Street, less than 5 minutes' walk away and costs £2 per day. Cycle storage and showers are available at Atlas House. The office is close to the town centre, the Town Hall and other council buildings.

Registrars are provided with a swipe card access to Atlas House, and flexible working between the hours of 7.30am and 6.30pm can be accommodated. Options for occasional remote working can be discussed with your supervisor. You will be provided with your own computer, email address and phone line, printer and photocopier access, and will have a desk allocated to you. There is a kitchen on-site with microwaves, fridges, water coolers and a hot drink vending machine. There is not a canteen on-site but a range of food outlets are in the town centre.



Further information about public health in St Helens can be found [here](#). You might also find the latest [JSNA](#) and the recent [Health Profile](#) useful.

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