



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Public Health training in Stockport

Training Prospectus  
2024



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

## Director of Public Health foreword

Thank you for your interest in starting or continuing your public health training at Stockport Council. At Stockport Council, our focus is on building a Stockport that everyone is proud to call home. Our vision is for an ambitious council, one that creates opportunities for everyone who lives, works and spends time in the borough.

Stockport was recently cited in The Guardian newspaper as 'one of the coolest corners of the country'. A hub of regeneration has seen the town centre go from strength to strength, and we boast fantastic transport links that really do help put us on the map as a destination town in the North of England. The borough isn't without its challenges: we're the 8th most socioeconomically polarised borough in the country, and a big part of the work the public health team have undertaken in recent years has been to improve health equality for everyone.

We do some great public health work here in Stockport and I'm thrilled to be inviting expressions of interest once more for training placements within our team. If you'd like to be part of a thriving, friendly and ambitious team and work with talented colleagues across the council, this placement is for you.

Our public health team are a core part of Stockport Council. As Director of Public Health, I report directly to Caroline Simpson, our Chief Executive, and am a full member of the Council Leadership Team. The public health team play a key part in our Integrated Care System, by ensuring that population health is at the core of our work, whilst having a focus on early intervention and prevention. Public Health is a core member of the One Health and Care Board, delivers the Health and Wellbeing Board alongside the Council Leadership Team, as well as leading on transformation programmes on behalf of key partners to deliver improved health and wellbeing for the population and reduce inequalities.

The council mission statement is *Ambitious Stockport: creating opportunities for everyone*. Creating opportunities is at the heart of what we do: whether that's via our ambitious regeneration work, our social work team creating better lives for our young people and their families, or through the public health team and their work to make sure everyone is happier and healthier in Stockport.

Our values are to always *Think Stockport – putting our borough and our residents first and championing the area*. We *Achieve as a Team*, working across service areas to achieve the very best outcomes. We *Work with Ambition*, and we *Show Everyone Respect*: we are an inclusive council and are working hard to improve equity for all and increase diversity in our workforce.

It's an exciting time to join us. We've recently refurbished our Stopford House building to create a state-of-the-art workspace for our colleagues. If you can bring a can-do attitude and a passion for improving health outcomes for our residents, you'll fit right in.

I look forward to meeting you.

Jilla Burgess-Allen

Director of Public Health

# Introduction to Stockport

Stockport is a metropolitan borough council (MBC) within Greater Manchester, delivering the full spectrum of over 800 council services for our 294,800 residents. The Stockport locality of NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care is coterminous with the Stockport MBC boundary, and the locality team are based with us in Stopford House. We work with our key partner organisations (Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Stockport Homes and Stockport's GP federation, Viaduct Care) alongside GPs and voluntary organisations to achieve the ambitions outlined in our ONE Stockport Health and Care Plan.

The district is extremely varied with the most deprived ward and GP catchment of Greater Manchester (Brinnington) existing within the same borough as some of the most affluent wards of the county. This polarisation, and the wide variety in levels of need frame the challenges and opportunities that we address as a public health team.

The One Stockport Borough Plan was launched in March 2021. The plan was developed throughout the pandemic and sets out a vision for Stockport for 2030. The One Stockport Borough Plan is separate to, but complements, our Council Plan 2023–24. The One Stockport Borough Plan is a shared plan, developed in partnership with

**Stockport is the 8<sup>th</sup> most polarised borough in the country, and the most polarised in GM. This frames the challenges and the opportunities for our public health team, council and wider partnerships**

organisations across Stockport, and shaped by the voices of our communities and residents.

We heard that people want to focus on a hopeful and ambitious future and keep the strong partnership working and relationships that emerged during the pandemic. People said they felt closer to their communities and that issues such as inclusivity, equality and equity, skills and employment as well as tackling the climate crisis are very important. The One Stockport Borough Plan is shaped around three core pillars to create One Stockport for everyone – One Heart, One Home, One Future. These are underpinned by nine shared priorities and partnership delivery plans to ensure we deliver.

Key priorities for health and wellbeing are set out in our [JSNA](#). In the last decade of the last century the health of Stockport improved from being slightly worse than the national average to being slightly better. This overall statistic

conceals substantial differences between small areas, and we currently see worse outcomes in the deprived areas of Stockport than those in areas of similar deprivation elsewhere in the country. Around a third of the borough is deprived inner city and a further third consists of affluent suburbs. The remaining third is more varied, including successful inner suburbs, established commuter towns and a few small villages. A large proportion of housing growth over the next decade will focus on new residential areas in the town centre, which is likely to result in filling in more of the ‘middle’ of our age and deprivation distributions.

Stockport experiences much more internal variation in deprivation and health than many areas across both Greater Manchester and England & Wales. This gives us a greater challenge in ensuring the equitable distribution of resources and services to reduce health inequalities.

## Public health department

Registrars are based with the public health team in Stopford House in the centre of Stockport. This is very easily accessible by bus and a 5-minute walk from Stockport train station. We follow a hybrid working pattern, with registrars expected to spend around half of their time on placement in the office, with the majority of the team also working in the

office or hybrid, creating a collaborative working environment.

The public health leadership team consists of the Director of Public Health and two Consultants in Public Health, along with other senior managers in public health. Both consultants act as educational supervisors. There is a strong team supporting the

leadership to deliver on public health across the spectrum, giving you the opportunity to work on everything from the wider determinants of public health, healthy communities, behaviour change, prevention and early detection, clinical pathway redesign, healthcare quality and policy and individual funding decisions. The team has strong links with the ICS and the Foundation Trust. Our strong approach to partnership working creates opportunities for you to work in a variety of settings, with recent registrars

completing work with Transport for Greater Manchester, the NHS ICS and Stockport Foundation Trust. Senior registrars will be invited to join our Senior Management Team.

The department has a long history of successfully hosting public health registrars and offers a supportive environment for training. There are regular away days and team meetings, and monthly research and policy forums for the whole team and other colleagues, dedicated to shared learning.

## Interests and training opportunities

Stockport's public health team includes just over 40 employees, with a variable number of colleagues joining us on training placements throughout the year.

The entire team places a strong emphasis on reducing health inequalities. Across our team, we have special interests in:

- Shaping the contribution of the physical/built environment to health, through strategic regeneration work in Town Centre West led by the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation
- Redesigning services to enable delivery in neighbourhoods in a way that reflects the need in each area
- Planning and land use
- Transport
- Housing and homelessness
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Emphasis on public health advocacy
- Behaviour change (commissioning) – including sexual health, smoking, weight management, and substance misuse.
- Prevention and early detection - current priorities are cancer, long term conditions, COPD, AF, hypertension, diabetes and dementia
- Healthy communities, self help and person-centred approaches
- Mental wellbeing and mental public health
- Healthy ageing
- Children and young people's public health, with services for children

provided within the integrated Stockport Family partnership with NHS Stockport Foundation Trust

- Quality Improvement
- Public Health Intelligence

- Health protection, including regular audits, case and outbreak response, screening and vaccination services
- Embedding prevention within the hospital and its pathways

## Early training (ST1-2)

We will agree with each registrar a range of diverse projects to meet genuine needs within the organisation and with our partners that aims to enable registrars to explore the breadth of public health, find or explore their passions, give experience and begin accumulating evidence towards the sign-off of curriculum competencies. We are keen to support registrars undertaking their MPH (or modules of the course if they already have an MPH) alongside their work in the council, and are normally successful in finding topics to match a registrar's interest and academic needs so that each piece of work meets both

academic and service need. We are keen to ensure that early training extends the existing skills of registrars and contextualises the knowledge required for Diplomate Examination. We actively support exam preparation through our policy and research forum and other learning opportunities and have the depth and diversity of skills to be able to arrange additional tuition and revision opportunities where appropriate. For registrars in their first year, we offer a range of shadowing opportunities, including front-line roles in the community as well as senior leadership and political shadowing.

## Later training (ST3-5)

We are keen to identify a set of responsibilities that can be carried out under a level of supervision and reflective practice appropriate to experience and training needs. Our aim is for registrars to work as public health specialists within Stockport rather than just knowing or showing public health skills or approaches in a project portfolio. Senior

registrars are invited to attend our senior leadership team meetings.

We will agree with the registrar the most appropriate areas, balancing competencies still to be acquired, gaps in training and personal interests and aptitudes with corporate and service needs.

We enjoy preparing registrars for their final membership examination and KA10, and

delight in seeing more experienced registrars flourish when they are given a portfolio of responsibility rather than project-based work.

## Facilities

All registrars will be issued with a mobile telephone and laptop and have access to bookable hot desks in our newly refurbished offices, with shared printing, photocopying and scanning facilities. We use MS teams for remote meetings and telephone calls and make use of a large number of modern meeting and collaborative working spaces, most of which are equipped with hybrid meeting equipment. A number of bookable quiet rooms and booths are also available.

The standard Microsoft software packages are provided, with access to R, QGIS, tableau and other packages available on request.

Our town centre civic campus offers ample modern and fully accessible secure cycle parking with lockers, showers, changing areas and a cycle maintenance area. If you choose to drive, you can park within our staff car park at a cost of £3 per day. Electric vehicle charging is also available.

## Registrar experiences

### **Rachel Westwood ST1 (2022-present)**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first placement at Stockport so far, it has been a great introduction to how public health functions at a local authority level and I have been well supported in my learning. Although I have only been attending 1 day a week alongside the MPH, I feel I have got to know the team and have benefited from in person working and whole team events. I have worked on projects alongside the MPH programme and have been able to explore my own interests and learning needs. Stockport is a great place to work as a registrar with the benefits of support from a highly experienced and dedicated public health team. Most of the team is in the office so there is a great working environment alongside hybrid working.

### **Funke Usikalu ST2 (2021-2023)**

I have been in Stockport for the first couple of years of my training and it has really served as a good introduction to local authority public health. I started my placement in 2021, just after the most restrictive lockdown measures had been lifted but still in the middle of tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant that most people were still working full time from home. It however also

meant that there was still some COVID-19 support work ongoing. I was able to shadow the testing team as well as listen in and participate in outbreak meetings for the local schools. I also carried out an evaluation of the Stockport COVID-19 response, which involved qualitative research. This provided an opportunity to interview key stakeholders, both at the council but other key local organisations such as the CCG, Stepping Hill Hospital, the Police, and care home managers. The project gave me a good understanding of the local area and how various organisations worked together in the pandemic. It also had the benefit of introducing me to members of the team and council at large. There is the option of flexible, hybrid working in the team, with people encouraged to come into the office as frequently as they like and there are usually team members around on all the days. I worked on other projects in my ST1 year alongside the MPH programme and have continued to be more involved this year, with being at the council for more days, whilst preparing for the diplomate exam. I have been well supported by my ES and other members of staff. Overall, I would say that Stockport is a great placement opportunity, with a dedicated public health team, who together have a great wealth of expertise and experience and any registrar would benefit from a placement here.

### **Ben Fryer – ST5 (2020-2021)**

I joined Stockport council in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in late spring 2020, having identified the council (prior to the pandemic) as the ideal place for me to undertake an 'acting up' placement. This was – of course – a strange time to start work in any organisation, and I didn't attend the office at all for my first 6 months. Despite the challenges of forming all the relationships I needed through MS teams, I felt warmly welcomed by colleagues throughout the organisation and its partners. The integration between partners in Stockport was amazing, to the extent that it was often less than entirely obvious who worked for each organisation. Collaboration between departments, directorates and organisations is the norm here. Throughout my time in training, I was welcomed into the Senior Management Team, and enjoyed direct contact with politicians, the chief executive and other directors. My main work during training was on the COVID-19 pandemic, where I provided health protection advice to schools, looked after large-scale testing services at multiple sites (with up to 80 directly employed staff at one point). I was genuinely treated as a consultant in public health, and felt both the freedom and responsibility that came with the degree of trust that was placed in me. Our then DPH, Jen (see below!) was a fantastic supervisor who provided really meaningful feedback to help me refine my approach to public health work, as well as supporting my structured approach to ensuring that I signed off my last few remaining competencies. Following CCT, I was delighted to be appointed to a permanent Consultant in Public Health role here in Stockport.



### **Jennifer Connolly ST3 and ST5**

I have been lucky enough to return to Stockport to complete my training and this has given me insight to the training opportunities offered at Stockport during these different stages. I was well supported in ST3 to identify work which simultaneously met the needs of the organisation, my interests, and my learning needs. I had the opportunity to work closely with the CCG, and address a large number of learning outcomes, particularly around health care public health. Additionally, I was working towards Part B, and was given great opportunity to prepare and practice for this exam with a range of colleagues (which led to a successful result!). Now returning at ST5, we have identified work to address my final outstanding learning outcomes, with a greater focus on public health within the council and healthy communities. The leadership team at Stockport have a diversity of background, skills and style which means it's a great training location to help you develop your own approaches. I've also been supported and challenged to work towards taking on a consultant level portfolio, which is essential now that applying for consultant jobs is on the horizon.

### **Nick Riches ST3**

I have really enjoyed my time on placement in Stockport. Everyone in the public health team is very friendly and there is a wealth of local knowledge, enthusiasm and experience, which I have found invaluable to draw on. The Consultants and DPH are very engaged in training and allow the right balance between challenge and support when choosing and delivering projects (and ensuring that work fits with learning needs). I have had opportunities to develop leadership skills, including when representing the public health team at regular IFR panel meetings and leading the delivery of a JSNA focused on children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Being co-located with the CCG in Stopford House makes joint working across the organisation easier and I have had the opportunity to take on projects for the CCG during my time here, helping to meet some healthcare public health competencies. The public health team also has a strong emphasis on working to support and empower local communities meaning there are also ample opportunities to develop skills in community engagement.

## **Contact us**

For further information on placements in Stockport please contact:

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