



## **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL TRAINING PROSPECTUS 2026**



**Warrington Town Hall Golden Gates**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Welcome**

Warrington Borough Council is proud to support Public Health Registrars at all stages of their training. This prospectus aims to tell Public Health Registrars about: Warrington as a place, our areas of work, including our work with partners and across the council; the kind of projects Registrars have undertaken and it gives a flavour of just some of the opportunities for training across the pillars of Public Health. It also gives practical information about where the public health team is located, working arrangements (hybrid working is supported) and about travelling to council offices. This document gives an overview of the induction programme offered to Registrars to make them feel supported and at home here. We are keen to hear from you. If you would like to talk about placements at Warrington please contact Debbie Watson (Director of Public Health) and/or Sheila Paul (Training Lead and Consultant in Public Health) -contact details are at the end of this document.

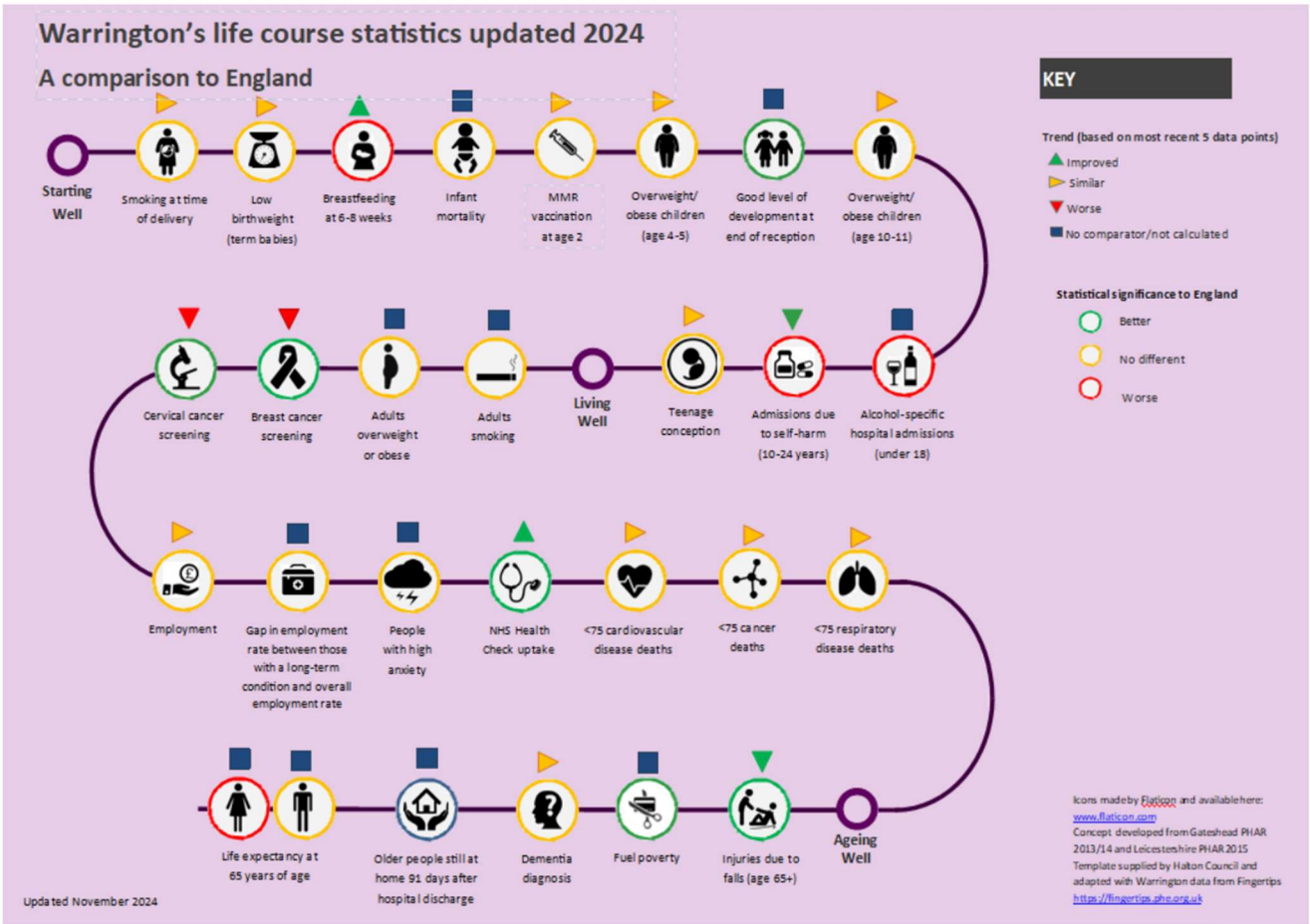
#### **1.2 Why Warrington?**

Warrington is a diverse and growing town with a strong local economy, successful commercial sectors and a varied social profile. It is an intriguing mix of cultures from the more affluent “old Cheshire” areas to the areas with a grittier, industrial past. Alongside areas of affluence, some communities experience higher levels of deprivation, creating opportunities to drive improvements in health and wellbeing. Working in Warrington you will be exposed to real challenges and get full recognition for

the work that you do. It is a non-hierarchical organisation - the Director of Public Health has an open-door policy and welcomes comments from all.

### 1.3 About Warrington

With a resident population of approximately 212,000 people, Warrington includes a breadth of socioeconomic circumstances, with marked inequalities within the town, including in the central 6 electoral wards. Approximately 19% of residents live in the 20% most deprived areas and approximately 30% live in the least deprived. In all, 19.7% of residents are aged 65 and over, which is higher than England. The town has a growing population and has a mixture of rural and urban communities. It was the first town to be awarded Healthy Cities membership in 2009 as part of the UK network. Some key statistics from the latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Core Document are shown below. Further JSNA information can be found at [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) | warrington.gov.uk](http://warrington.gov.uk)



Some of Warrington's Lifecourse statistics

## **2. STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING LOCATION**

Warrington is approved by the Faculty of Public Health for 2 Specialty Registrars. Warrington also arranges public health placements for trainees from other disciplines and undergraduates. In addition to PH specialty training, Warrington has hosted trainees on the NHS Management Training Scheme, the Local Government Training scheme and Universities. Registrars and other trainees are co-located with the whole public health team and are considered an integral part of the team.

### **2.1 Location and working arrangements**

As a place to live and work, Warrington is a good choice. Its travel connections are unsurpassed – the M6, M62 and M56, and the west coast mainline and Northern, Trans Pennine train routes, all connect to the town.

The Public Health Team are based in the centre of the town, in modern council offices at 1 Time Square, Warrington, WA1 2NT – very near shops and the Warrington food market.

Time Square is easily accessible via public transport and is within easy walking distance of the Bus station as well as the train stations of Warrington Central and Warrington Bank Quay. Secure cycle stores and shower facilities are available. Use of public transport is encouraged. Car parking is also available at a multistorey car park to the back of Time Square and is charged at local rate.

The PH team is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor which is accessible. The team supports hybrid (minimum of two days a week in the office) and flexible working. All Registrars have their own Warrington Borough Council laptop computer, personal logins and desk space is with the PH team.

### **2.2 The Public Health Department**

The core public health team includes 25 people. Alongside the Director of Public Health there are two Consultants in Public Health and a Principal in Public Health who all work as a Senior Management Group for the Public Health agenda. Team support is provided by a dedicated Public Health Business Unit. Sub-teams focus on Health Improvement and Staying Well; Children and Young People and Sexual Health and Starting Well; Health Protection and Healthcare Public Health and Ageing Well; and Substance Misuse, Tobacco control, mental health, complex lives and the wider determinants of health. The PH team includes its own dedicated Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Team, which provides both quantitative and qualitative analysis and expertise. The team also commissions, co-ordinates and delivers training on public health issues to increase public health capacity at local level. The PH team also has a dedicated full time Public Health Communications Officer.

The PH team as a whole engages in cross-portfolio working on a range of areas. For example, the Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Delivery Plan. Work is underway to support a smokefree generation and support for the community and

education settings regarding vaping among children and young people. Other recent areas of work have included a project to support the response to mental health and wellbeing following suicide events in an area of the borough and the development of the DPH Annual Report on Ageing Well.

Registrars attend Senior Management Group meetings and are able to shadow at key meetings with the Senior PH Team. A monthly Public Health Team Learning and Development session is held for the whole team, including Registrars. This is an opportunity to update on key issues, develop working knowledge and input into development areas. As part of the team, Registrars are encouraged to present work and so are able to gain whole team input.

### **2.3 Internal and external collaboration and links**

Warrington Borough Council is a unitary authority, with one Warrington Integrated Care Board (ICB Warrington Place) and one principal hospital in the centre of the town (Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS FT).

The Director of Public Health is a statutory officer of the council and attends the Council's Senior Leadership Team. The whole of the Council is oriented towards [Warrington Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-28](#) reflecting the themes of – Starting Well, Staying Well, Ageing Well and Strong and Resilient Communities.

The PH team is part of the Council's People Directorate and works closely with colleagues in the People Directorate (including Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Education, Early Years) and across other Council departments. This includes for instance the Integrated Wellbeing Service (including lifestyles team and community centres) and the Homelessness Service as well as Public Protection (including Environmental Health and Trading Standards).

The team has worked across Council Directorates on many pieces of work – recent examples have included: cross departmental work on Poverty; voluntary sector commissioning with Adult Social Care to help residents to age well; a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Needs Assessment working with Education colleagues; work on homelessness with the Homelessness Team; and local responses to health protection incidents/outbreaks - working with Environmental health and Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care and Education.

The department offers a unique opportunity to influence the wider determinants of health. For example, the Director of Public Health is the lead officer for Poverty within the Council and a Consultant in Public Health is leading on Housing and Health.

Working relationships between partners are close and there are many opportunities to develop programmes of work together. The team works closely with colleagues in Warrington Place (Warrington NHS Integrated Care Board), the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, NHS Trusts, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), workplaces, the Warrington Living Well Hub and our commissioned services. The 'award winning' Living Well Hub has improved access to services in the town, and hosts a variety of NHS, voluntary sector and health and wellbeing services ([Living Well Hub | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.livingwellhub.warrington.gov.uk)) and this is supported by the Living Well Virtual Hub online

connecting people, communities and services and sources of support ([Living Well Warrington - Living Well Warrington](#)).

As an example of collaborative working, the town also has a successful rugby league team, which has an excellent reputation for community working and has close links with the Public Health Team; for example the successful 'Fit to Tackle' and 'Every Body Counts' children and young people and families weight management service.

The PH team is also connected into wider networks and working groups across Cheshire and Merseyside and the North West. We are part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health collaborative (ChaMPs), which enables linked work across borders, especially on the Public Health offer to NHS commissioners, health protection, knowledge and intelligence, and commissioning.

We also have strong links within Cheshire, with our fellow Public Health teams in Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils. This joint working will increase with the devolution of Cheshire and Warrington and the move to a Combined Authority in 2026. There are good links with local Universities, including Liverpool University, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and Liverpool John Moores University.

## **2.4 Accredited Educational Supervisors and Activity Supervisors**

All registrars are supervised by their accredited Educational Supervisor and supported by Activity Supervisors and other senior staff to complete programmes of work and gain Faculty of Public Health learning outcomes/competencies and develop their professional working knowledge of public health. As noted, Registrars can attend and contribute to Public Health Senior Management Group working with the DPH, Consultants and Public Health Principal.

Educational Supervisors include:

- Debbie Watson is an experienced Director of Public Health with experience of being a DPH in both Warrington and Greater Manchester and is also an Educational Supervisor.



**Debbie Watson, Warrington Director of Public Health**

- Sheila Paul is the lead trainer (on behalf of the DPH) in the council. She is an experienced Consultant in Public Health and Educational supervisor. Sheila's remit includes Healthcare Public Health, Ageing Well aspects of health protection, including screening.
- Mike Bridges is an experienced Consultant in Public Health and Educational

Supervisor. Mike's remit includes Health Protection, Broad determinants and Veterans.

Activity Supervisors include:

- Julie Murray-Shepard, Public Health Principal, has a wealth of experience from Cheshire and Merseyside and leads on Starting Well and Children and Young people's public health, Sexual Health and areas of health improvement.
- Other members of the team act as Activity Supervisors and have undertaken training for this role.

## **2.5 Comprehensive Induction programme developed to support PH Registrars**

As a PH department, we have developed a comprehensive Induction package for Registrars – this has been continuously improved based on feedback from our PH Registrars who have come to Warrington. The induction can be adapted to meet a Registrar's particular interests and learning needs. As well as meeting the Public Health Team, induction includes meeting other Council colleagues, as well as getting out and about and seeing services in the local area as well as shadowing opportunities (e.g. with PH Team members, the Infection Prevention and Control Team, Environmental Health Team). Induction also includes an overview of the work of the department and the business plan - this helps Registrars to add to their professional understanding of public health service work and to see where their projects link to Warrington priorities. It is hoped that it also helps to make Registrars feel welcome and at home here.



**Time Square looking towards Warrington Markets and the Council Offices  
(the Public Health team is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**



**Warrington Town Hall**

### **3. PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 We offer training opportunities across all pillars of PH**

**Health Protection:** Warrington has a strong system of health protection governance in place; including the Warrington Health Protection Board. We commission Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) service collaboratively with Halton and St Helens, and work closely with the IPC team, Public Protection colleagues in WBC, the UKHSA and the NHS to promote and protect health in the town. The department affords opportunities to get involved both responding to health protection incidents, outbreaks and issues as well as strategic health protection work.

Warrington Borough Council is particularly strong on health in planning. The public health team is developing a joint programme with planning and environmental protection colleagues to respond to planning application consultations and Supplementary Planning Documents; and ultimately develop health impact assessments for the major developments.

#### **Health Protection Training opportunities for Registrars**

There is opportunity for Registrars to be involved in both acute and strategic health protection work and health protection governance. For example shadowing and contributing to Incident Management Teams (IMTs); work supporting vaccine and screening uptake to reduce inequalities; delivery of health protection support and training for specific settings like schools/early years. Registrars also can gain experience of Health Protection at place level, by shadowing the community IPC team and at Regional Health Protection meetings.

**Health Improvement:** Our Health Improvement Specialists commission and programme manage health improvement services and programmes – including the 0-19 service (School Nursing and Health Visiting), NHS Health Checks, Sexual Health Service, Substance Misuse services and voluntary sector services to support people to start, stay and age well. PH has a comprehensive commissioning policy, plan and pipeline in place which Registrars can learn from and which is subject to oversight by the Public Health Governance Group—so we know what we are doing to improve health, and whether it is having an impact.

#### **Health Improvement training opportunities for Registrars**

There are opportunities for Registrars to be involved with health improvement strategy and project development. There are opportunities to be involved in the commissioning cycle, developing and implementing strategies and plans, and in evaluating the impact of programmes. For example, helping to develop a public mental health plan with system partners following our new Mental Health Strategy. There are also opportunities to work with other members of the PH team on the Healthy Cities or inequalities agendas in the town - where Warrington has populations that are within the 20% most deprived and the 20% most affluent in England.

**Wider determinants:** The DPH is the lead officer for Poverty and the borough has recently established a Poverty Truth Commission and the Warrington Poverty Action Group and to develop work to address family poverty. Whilst Warrington has a relatively affluent profile overall, it has significant health inequalities including in the Central Six electoral wards. In all 9.0% of households experience fuel poverty compared to 12.1% in the NW. Our 2023 Warrington Health and Wellbeing Survey of adults found that 1 in 10 respondents were finding it difficult or 'very difficult' to manage financially, this was 18% in most deprived areas compared to 5.6% in least deprived areas. One in four adults aged 18-39 years living in quintiles i&2 were experiencing financial difficulties.

#### **Wider determinants training opportunities for Registrars**

There are opportunities for Registrars to be involved in work on Poverty reduction and 'health in all policies' work on housing and health and on planning and health. Registrars can learn from and support the Warrington Poverty Truth Commission and Warrington Poverty Action Group and to develop work to address family poverty. They would also have to the opportunity to work in current key work areas like Creative Health with the Culture Warrington team and on PH work to reduce Gambling harms.

**Health and Care Public Health:** Warrington commissions a range of public health services according to need and quality – including Drug and Alcohol Services, Lifestyle services, broader health improvement services, Sexual Health services, 0-19 Services, NHS Health Checks. Public health co-commissions some services with neighbouring boroughs (e.g. the Infection Prevention and Control Service) and also has Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for some public health services within WBC. Work on long term conditions includes work on CVD prevention as both a local and regional priority. The DPH and team are involved in the Living Safe and Well workstream of Adult Social Care Transformation programme and is working to embed prevention, including work support carers and to help people age well.

#### **Health and care PH training opportunities for Registrars**

There are a range of training opportunities to get involved with service commissioning and planning, including co-commissioning; CVD prevention work on blood pressure; shaping the NHS Health Check model; supporting screening and immunisation providers to improve uptake and roll out/scale up good practice. Other ongoing projects include working with the hospital on projects e.g. Health Literacy and on PH campaigns. There are also opportunities to be involved in Adult Social Care Transformation Projects as part of our ageing well approach and to learn from co-commissioning with Adult Social Care. Other opportunities include shadowing the PH Senior Team at Neighbourhood Health meetings (with primary care and system leaders) and work to embed prevention in emerging neighbourhood plans.

**PH Knowledge and Intelligence:** The Public Health K&I team provide a first rate service and rightly do much to add to the good reputation of public health

with the council and partners. The team lead the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process and the refresh of annual statistical monitoring of health and wellbeing for the Health and Wellbeing Board and lead a programme of Needs Assessments to provide PH advice across system partners. The team includes Public Health Analysts and a new Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP) who is developing research capacity in the council and strengthening the use of qualitative data and insight inform priorities.

We also have access to the UKHSA library service for evidence-based review services, which means that data and research evidence can be accessed within the public health team.

### **PH Knowledge & Intelligence training opportunities for Registrars**

There is plenty of opportunity to gain experience in K&I work, including in needs assessments, JSNA sections, health impact assessments and deep dives, Health Equity Audits, qualitative analysis and insight, and evaluation – all giving Registrars the opportunity to improve their analysis skills and experience of using evidence to inform public health practice. Registrars are encouraged to be involved in the writing of the DPH Annual Report - so collating and communicating insight and analysis to a wide audience.

### **Communications and engagement training opportunities for Registrars:**

There is opportunity for Registrars to gain first-hand experience of developing communications strategies and media releases (including writing proactive and reactive press releases) and to work with and learn from our PH Communications Lead Officer. For example, we recently developed a communications plan for national 'Know Your Numbers' week as part of CVD prevention work – this includes press releases, print and targeted social media; we also have delivered Winter Wellbeing communications plan with Adult Social Care.

## **4. EXAMPLES OF RECENT REGISTRAR PROJECTS**

- Ann Doble is completing her PH Training programme here at WBC and is undertaking work on Creative Health, Mental health and wellbeing and on PH Knowledge and Intelligence.
- Tim Martin: completed Health Equity Audit work on Sexual health and is assisting with parts of the commissioning cycle for the recommissioning of the sexual health service;
- Maddy Yates: completed a Health Equity Audit on childhood immunisations to inform local actions to increase uptake; compiled a report for the Vulnerable People's Committee on the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in collaboration with a range of council services and presented this to a PH team meeting and did needs assessment work on people with Learning Disabilities.
- Hayley Wardle: completed a Needs Assessment on Hoarding to support people with complex needs and presented this to a national Social Work meeting and Safeguarding meetings; developed an evidence based oral health promotion plan; conducted a comprehensive assessment to support measles preparedness; responded to health protection incidents and

developed sections of the Delivery Plan for Warrington's new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- James Moran: did a breastfeeding Health Equity Audit assessment, supported work on health and planning, including Supplementary Planning Documents; lead a Physical Activity Needs Assessment and assisted with drafting the Active Warrington Strategy; completed a cervical screening needs assessment; and developed work on vapes and sustainability.
- David Newbold: developed a highly complex health needs assessment for substance misuse and reported to senior staff on the Community Safety Partnership and the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership; and developed expertise in supporting vulnerable people

#### Other trainees

- Local Government Trainee developed work to support the Poverty Truth Commission and designed and produced a Poverty Monitor resource. They also developed the model and implementation plan for the Warrington Breastfeeding and Baby Welcome Scheme, which was launched Oct 25.
- Undergraduate in Sports Science from Liverpool John Moores University has helped to develop the public health approach to promoting physical activity and supported the delivery of project to reduce risk taking behaviours in young people.
- NHS Management Trainee helped to scope a piece of work on complex lives with NIHR colleagues at the University of Liverpool



**WBC staff and friends and families took part in a Warrington Parkrun 2025**



**Warrington Living Well Hub in the town centre**

## **5. Leadership and Governance and CPD**

The public health team provide opportunities for continuous professional development and learning. There are monthly public health team learning and development (L&D) meetings where time is set aside to share learning and updates across the team. As well as talks from external speakers, all team members, including Registrars, are encouraged to present work. Senior Registrars can be given the opportunity to organise these learning events for the team.

Recent L&D sessions have included talks on the Cheshire and Merseyside Business Intelligence Portal from Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, suicide audit, sexual health service commissioning and needs assessment, the NHS 10 year Plan and on Exercise Pegasus, pandemic planning exercise.

Registrars also join the Public Health Senior Management Group and the PH Governance meeting, as appropriate. The latter provides the overall assurance on the public health grant, the programme of work, clinical and integrated governance, public health contracts, performance and risks.



**Walton Hall Gardens, Warrington**



**Orford Jubilee Hub, Warrington**

## **8. CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR TRAINING NEEDS**

If you would like to discuss a Public Health placement in Warrington, please contact Sheila Paul Consultant in Public Health/Training Lead on: [Sheila.paul@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:Sheila.paul@warrington.gov.uk) and Debbie Watson Director of Public Health on: [d.watson@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:d.watson@warrington.gov.uk)

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