

TRAINING PROSPECTUS WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



The Town Hall Golden Gates

1. INTRODUCTION

Why Warrington?

It is said that Warrington is where the north begins when travelling up the M6 or on the west coast mainline, or where the north ends if you are coming down from the north. It is an intriguing mix of cultures from the more affluent “old Cheshire” areas to the areas with a grittier, industrial past. It has been very successful at developing business and keeping unemployment low.

Warrington is big enough to make a difference and small enough to care. It is on a scale that allows everyone in the team, including the trainees, to make a tangible difference. You won't be a cog in large impersonal machine. You will be exposed to real challenges, and be expected to see them through, and get full recognition for the work that you do. It is a non-hierarchical organisation, led by the example of the Chief Executive, who speaks to anyone, has an open door policy and welcomes comments from all.

Please note that Warrington Borough Council is part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Zone of the North West School of Public Health. 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. 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 paediatrics registrar rotation, Foundation doctor, Sports and Health undergraduate programme, Environmental Health officer placement, and overseas placement for a student from Faculty of Health Management, Université de Lille, France. Trainees are co-located with the public health team and are considered an integral part of the team.

2.1 Location

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 Trans Pennine train routes, all connect to the town.

The Public Health Team are based in the centre of the town, in New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NH. Car parking is available although charged at the local rate and therefore use of public transport is encouraged. Warrington Central railway station is a short walk away. Secure cycle stores are available.

2.2 The Public Health Department and training

The core public health team includes 26 people. There are two Consultant roles (as well as the DPH), and office support provided by two people. There is a Commissioning team, Knowledge and Intelligence, and health improvement team. With the transfer into local authority, the team expanded to include the DAAT, Housing and Neighbourhood teams. Recently other teams have joined the department including public protection, partnerships, community safety and resilience. This has improved the reach and influence of public health within the council and the town, and affords additional training opportunities for the wider determinants of health.

2.3 Accredited Trainers / Educational Supervisors



Dr Muna Abdel Aziz, Director of Public Health is the lead trainer in the council. She is an experienced consultant and trainer; who also covers the role of Training Programme Director for Cheshire and Merseyside.

The department offers a unique opportunity to influence the wider determinants of health. All registrars are supervised by the accredited educational supervisor, and supported by other senior staff to complete programmes of work and gain competencies. Registrars are members of the Senior Management Group working with the Consultants and Heads of Service:

- Dave Bradburn, Deputy Director of Public Health/Acting Consultant
- Tracy Flute, Principal in Public Health/Acting Consultant
- Cathy Fitzgerald, Head of Substance Misuse and Commissioning Development
- Dave Cowley, Head of Housing
- Dave Watson, Head of Public Protection
- Chris Skinkis, Neighbourhoods Service Manager
- Theresa Whitfield, Head of Community Safety and Resilience
- Eleanor Blackburn, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships

3. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LINKS

The Director of Public Health is a statutory officer of the council and is part of the council Senior Management Team. Public Health is part of the Families and Wellbeing Directorate in WBC, and closely linked to Adult and Children's Social Care. The whole of the Council is oriented towards the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Integrated Commissioning Plan with five themes – healthy communities, starting well, living and working well, and ageing well.

The mix of affluent and deprived areas means that there is a challenging combination of socio-economic circumstances within the town. It is a unitary authority, with one CCG and one principal hospital in the centre of the town. The Council is within walking distance of many community and third sector organisations and the hospital. This improves the ease of communication with partners.

Working relationships between partners are close and there are many opportunities to develop programmes of work together. The town also has a successful rugby league team, which has an excellent award winning reputation for community working, and has close links with the Public Health Team; for example the successful 'Fit to Tackle' and 'Offload' programmes.

With a population of 207,000, Warrington is the first town to be awarded Healthy Cities membership in 2009 as part of the UK network. We are part of the Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health collaborative, 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 Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils through the Public Sector Transformation Board. There are good links with local Universities, including Liverpool University, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and Liverpool John Moores University.



Rugby League success!



The 2016 launch of the First Utility Super League



The English Half Marathon for the third year 'running' in Warrington

4. PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

So what are the advantages of training in Warrington?

- There is a breadth of socioeconomic circumstances, with marked inequalities within the town. The Health and Wellbeing Board keeps close track of these inequalities, and many are narrowing, but not as fast as we would wish, and the absolute gap remains very wide.
- It is a unitary authority with one CCG; therefore it presents a relatively uncomplicated set of relationships, allowing maximum effort to be expended on what we are here for i.e. actually improving and protecting health.
- We enjoy excellent relationships with NHSE, PHE and the wider PH Collaborative across Cheshire & Merseyside. We encourage joint training opportunities with local and subregional organisations including the Innovation Agency North West.
- The Warrington Public Health Team has extremely strong partnerships within the Borough. We had the first shadow health and well-being board in the NW. Members of the Public Health Team work on the wider determinants with partners in the council, third sector and partners across the town.
- Warrington offers good training opportunities in :

Health Protection: Warrington has a strong system of public health governance in place; including the Health Protection Forum. We commission Infection Control services collaboratively with Halton and St Helens, and work closely with the nurses to promote and protect health in the town. Warrington Council is particularly strong on health in planning. Public health are developing a joint programme with planning and environmental protection colleagues to respond to planning application consultations; and ultimately develop health impact assessments for the major developments. There is opportunity for trainees to help develop this work, especially regarding the strategic economic development in the region and the impact on Warrington. There are strong programmes of work with businesses, and to plan for health and social care estates into the future linked to growth in the town.

Health Improvement: There is a team of commissioners and health improvement officers who either commission or programme manage health improvement initiatives. There is a comprehensive 'Public Health and Prevention Services' plan in place which is subject to monthly monitoring – so we know what we are doing to improve health, and whether it is having an impact. There are opportunities to work with other members of the public health team regarding Healthy Cities or inequalities in the town whereby Warrington has populations that are within the 20% most deprived and the 20% most affluent in England.

Wider determinants: Whilst Warrington has a relatively affluent profile it has higher than expected death rates from cardiovascular disease and cancers. In addition the alcohol harm reduction agenda is very challenging particularly amongst women and young people. Another issue of concern is the high referral rate and the high usage of acute care within Warrington, and for social care. So the challenge in Warrington is for demand reduction overall, and to enable the less affluent inner parts of the town catch up with the outer more affluent areas.

Knowledge and intelligence: The team provide a first rate service and rightly have done much to enhance the reputation of public health with the council and partners. The team lead the JSNA process and the refresh of annual statistical monitoring of health and wellbeing for the Health and Wellbeing Board. There is an excellent library service for evidence based review services, which means that data and research evidence can be accessed within the public health team. A qualitative researcher is a part of the team, giving trainees the opportunity to improve their skills in this area.

5. EXAMPLES OF RECENT TRAINEE PROJECTS

Public Health Speciality Trainees

- Charlotte Simpson was the first Senior Trainee in Warrington Council 2014-15. Charlotte led the cardiovascular programme and the partnership with public protection in the council. Charlotte also contributed to the policy paper on the role of businesses in health and wellbeing. Charlotte went on to take on her first Consultant post in Cheshire East.
- Rebecca Masters was formerly Acting Consultant in Warrington for 6 months covering health protection and health care public health. She secured her first consultant post in Wales straight after CCT.
- Anna Varela-Raynes also secured a post with PH Wales and successfully transitioned to that from Warrington. While in Warrington, she helped set up the Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Hubs.
- Lois Murray spent three years in Warrington, including nine months of Out of Programme Experience with the World Health Organisation. Lois substantially led the flu pandemic plan for Warrington with partners, and clinical pathways for high blood pressure. The health needs assessment for employment in central Warrington is underway.
- Our most recent trainee, Julia Darko, ST2 started a health needs assessment for cancer (Pathways and priorities) as this recently overtook cardiovascular disease as the biggest killer in Warrington.

Other trainees

- Undergraduate student who contributed to the messaging for Heatwave, Skin cancer and Hypertension campaigns in summer 2015;
- Environmental health trainee who contributed to the assessment of health impacts in a major planning application of warehouses in Omega; and final year BSc dissertation how HIAs add value to planning applications.

6. FACILITIES

All registrars have their own computer and phone as full members of the public health team.

7. CLINICAL GOVERNANCE / CPD

The public health team provide opportunities for continuous professional development and learning. There are monthly public health team meetings where time is set aside to share learning and updates across the team. A monthly PH & Prevention Integrated learning session is also held across all teams, and this is a peer learning set to discuss current issues and challenges. Senior registrars can be given the opportunity to organise these learning events for the team.

Trainees also join the PH Governance quarterly meeting which provides the overall assurance of the programme of work, clinical and integrated governance, the public health grant, contracts, performance and risks. A recent Internal Audit gave a statement of Substantial Assurance for this aspect of our work.

As well as Training Programme Director, Dr Abdel Aziz is a CPD Adviser for the Faculty of Public Health.

8. CONTACTS

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of coming to work in Warrington, please contact Dr Muna I Abdel Aziz, on 01925 443967, or mabdelaziz@warrington.gov.uk



Walton Hall Gardens

December 2018