



Wigan
Council

Public Health Speciality Registrar Training Placement



Welcome to Wigan

Thank you for considering a training placement with Wigan's Public Health team. Wigan Council is an amazing place to work - full of positive, accountable, courageous, and kind people. This is such an exciting time to join us.

Ten years on from re-imagining public service, Wigan Council has taken the opportunity to reflect on our philosophy and strategic intent to ensure we support our residents and communities through the specific challenges and opportunities of this coming decade.

The outcome is a new co-produced movement for change, 'Progress with Unity', which will be delivered as a borough-wide partnership. At the heart of this are two key missions focusing on addressing inequalities and helping our towns and neighbourhoods to flourish.

The council will support these missions with a stronger appetite than ever for radical reform with a renewed commitment to neighbourhood working, deeper community engagement and co-production, investment in our workforce and digital transformation.

A really important part of this journey has been the contribution of the public health team, who have ensured the focus on public health is embedded and integrated in the work we do across the Council and wider partnership. Wigan's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'Creating Health' sets out our shared ambition for health and wellbeing with a renewed focus on the wider factors that influence health, building and strengthening place-based preventative approaches to address health inequalities.

We're now seeing new challenges facing our residents, which will give renewed emphasis to some aspects of our public health work while reaffirming other priorities for action. This is reflected in the broader Progress with Unity ambitions for Wigan which put tackling inequalities and creating opportunities to maximise wellbeing at the heart of everything we do as a place partnership.

You'll be joining a team where we work collaboratively and supportively to get things done, an organisation which has strong political and managerial leadership and real ambition to improve health outcomes for residents. We were shortlisted for UKPHR employer of the year in 2024 and 2025 and are advocates for continued professional development. Training with us will enable you to enhance your public health career whilst making a real difference to our residents.

Our leadership team

Rachael Musgrave, Director of Public Health

Rachael joined Wigan Council, in August 2022 bringing with her over twenty years of public sector leadership experience.

Rachael started her career as a health improvement manager, before quickly progressing into leadership roles within Public Health. Pursuing her commitment to tackling health inequalities Rachael joined the North West Specialty Training Programme in 2008 spending time in placements across Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Merseyside before qualifying as a Consultant in 2014. Rachael is a passionate trainer and, with Laura, is eager for Wigan to become a leader in public health workforce development.

Since becoming Director of Public Health in 2022, Rachael has worked with partners to develop a new vision for public health in Wigan. Supporting NHS colleagues Rachael co-chairs the Healthier Wigan Partnership Integrated Delivery Board with the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive, holds the Wigan Civil Contingencies portfolio and is Vice Chair of the Greater Manchester Public Health Network.

Laura Wharton, Assistant Director of Public Health

Laura joined the team in June 2023 bringing with her over twenty years of experience working within public health roles across local government, the NHS and voluntary sector.

Laura started her career in housing before moving into public health where she held a wide portfolio across health improvement, wider determinants, and health protection before progressing into leadership roles. With a great track record of building collaboration, working with communities, and taking a whole systems approach to improving health and addressing inequalities, Laura is a great addition to Team Wigan.

Laura is the lead trainer for Wigan and since joining the team has rapidly developed a wide range of excellent local opportunities for public health training and development.



Rachael Musgrave
Director Public Health



Laura Wharton
Assistant Director Public Health

What those who train with us say

Charlie and Megan joined the Wigan public health team as Speciality Trainees in August 2023.

I worked in Wigan Borough for my ST1 and ST2 years, and found it a rich and rewarding experience. I was able to jump straight into a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment project and, supported by the team, delivered a report to the Health and Wellbeing Board within my first few months.

Working here, I had the opportunity to shadow projects across the Public Health portfolio, which has allowed me to gain loads of knowledge. When I started, my Educational Supervisor and the team put together a diverse range of induction activities which gave me a great overview of the work, while also being a chance to get to know people. A highlight was a visit to a summer holiday activity camp in Leigh in my first week, which definitely helped me start to understand the population I am working for.

In my ST2 year, I took on more senior projects working to improve respiratory health in the community, and coordinating an Alcohol Health Needs Assessment. I also had opportunities to present at our journal club, and mentor a foundation doctor on placement here. Wigan Borough is a complex place with a lot of public health needs, but the team here is incredibly welcoming and we take a strengths-based approach to try to create a better borough.

Charlie Steer ST2

I started in Wigan at the beginning of my ST1 year. Since I first started, the team were welcoming and approachable and I felt like a valued member of the public health team. During my ST1 year, the placement was accommodating of the demands of the MPH. When I started ST2, I was provided with opportunities across a diverse range of projects on topics including diabetes, cancer screening, and infection prevention and control. This supported me to gain exposure and experience across the breadth of public health, and develop a diverse set of public health skills. There were opportunities to deliver teaching to clinical trainees and students at Edge Hill University, and develop leadership and management skills through the mentorship of foundation doctors on placement in Wigan Council. The public health team also hosts a journal club every month, which provides a great opportunity to improve academic skills. Overall, Wigan is an enjoyable place to work, and my projects were appropriately challenging, meaningful and relevant to my training.

Megan O'Donovan ST2

Your training experience

We are currently at an exciting stage of development following a process of workforce transformation. There is, therefore, opportunity for a wide range of work projects and priority areas, to meet the needs of Registrars at all stages of training.

Registrars will get the opportunity to design an appropriate programme of work with the lead trainer to meet their competency needs, career aspirations and interests whilst based in Wigan.

You will have the chance to collaborate with the Consultant in Public Health and trainees based at Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust on projects and programmes of work. This will provide the opportunity to influence change within the Trust and across the wider system, and contribute to strategic efforts that support a prevention-focused approach to improving population health outcomes and addressing health inequalities.

We know you will be keen to get stuck in and make a difference but every successful placement starts with a great welcome and induction, so we will make sure you have a programme in place that helps you feel part of the team from day one.

We have a flexible approach to working patterns, where service delivery allows, which can ease worries around commuting and maintaining commitments at home. We have modern office space in the centre of Wigan which allows collaboration with colleagues and quiet space to focus.

During your placement you will be able to access many of our standard employee benefits, for example wider learning and development opportunities, wellbeing support and peer networks.

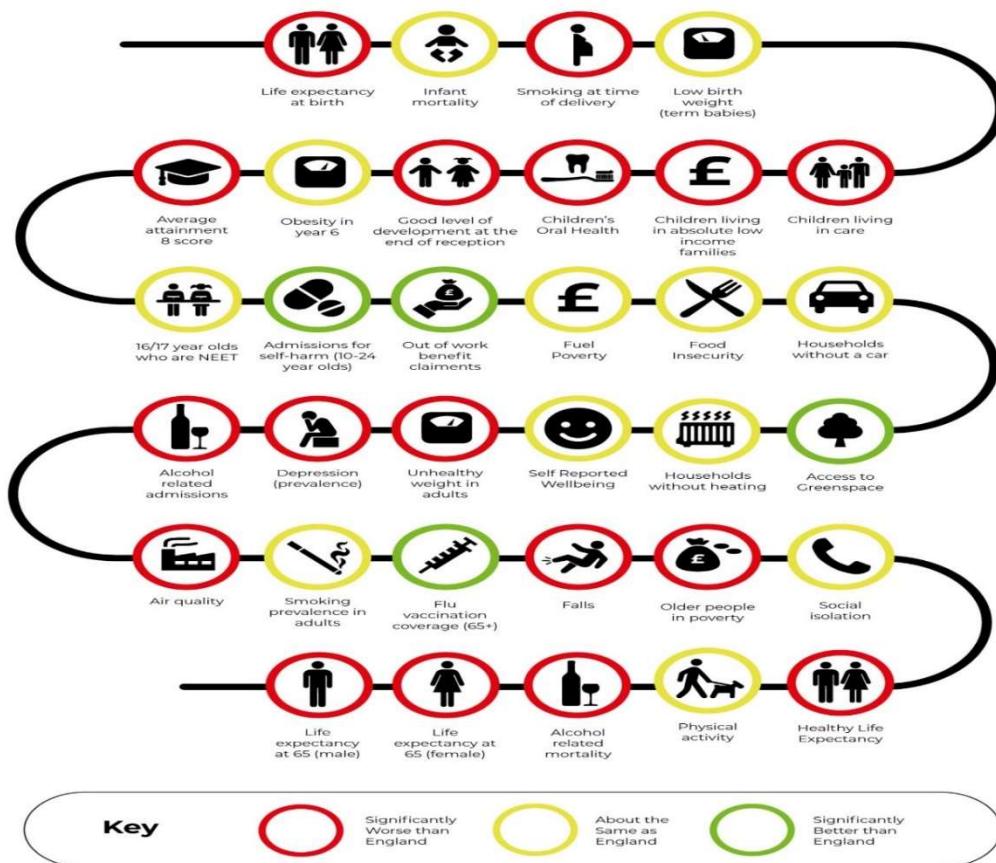
Your placement will be supervised by Rachael or Laura who are both experienced educational supervisors, and, as we do with all our employees, a workplace buddy will be on hand to help with the small things. As a disability confident employer, we are happy to talk about any support you may need before your placement starts.

If you have any questions about the experience we can provide or want to chat to one of our current registrars, please don't hesitate to email Laura Wharton, Assistant Director Public Health on l.wharton1@wigan.gov.uk

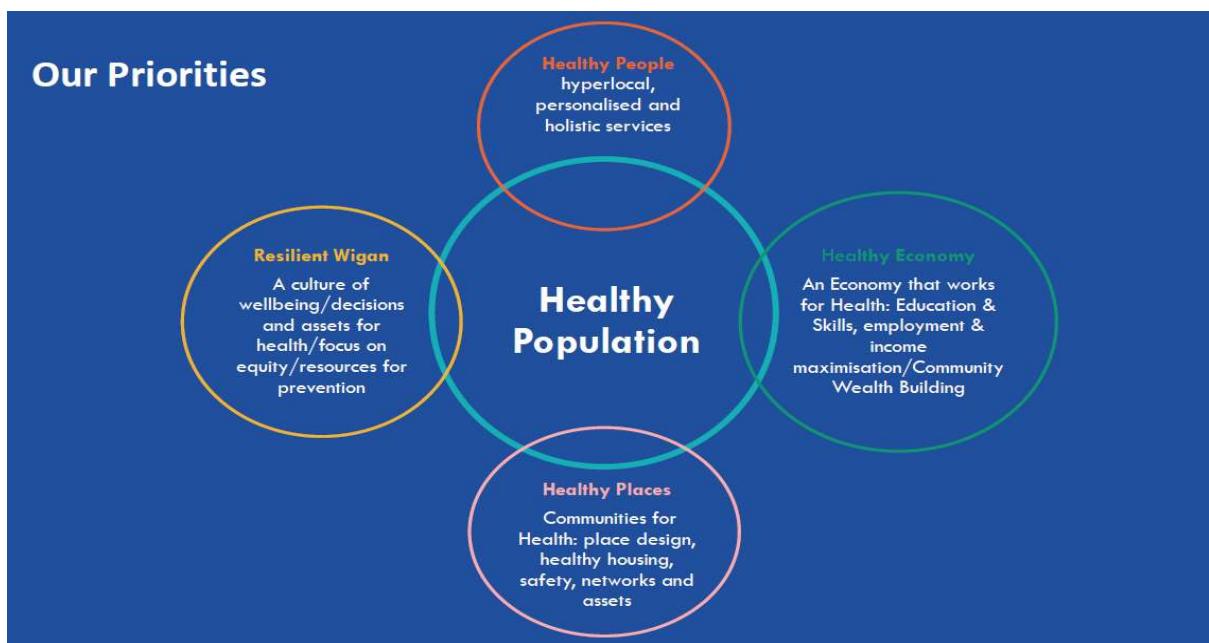
Local public health priorities

Within Wigan Borough, health outcomes vary across local communities. The infographic below contains some key health and wellbeing indicators for the Borough.

Figure 1: Key health and wellbeing indicators for Wigan Borough compared to England



Creating Health is Wigan's new strategy for health and wellbeing and sets out how we plan to achieve our ambition of wanting everyone to experience health in a way that enables them to live their best life, no matter who they are or where they live. We will turn our ambition into reality by focusing together on the things we know make the biggest difference to improving health for everyone.



Our journey

A decade ago, we responded to austerity by re-imagining our approach to public service delivery and our relationship with residents, communities and partners. Ten years on, new challenges have emerged. To meet these challenges we undertook a journey of honest reflection with our residents, partners and communities, with the aim of recommitting to what has been effective, while also refreshing our strategic purpose and ways of working. Our new movement 'Progress with Unity' builds on all of our existing strengths, while bringing together the council and local partners to commit to two shared, borough-wide missions



Mission 1

Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

"Together, we will break down the barriers that create financial, health, education and environmental inequalities in our borough."

Mission 2

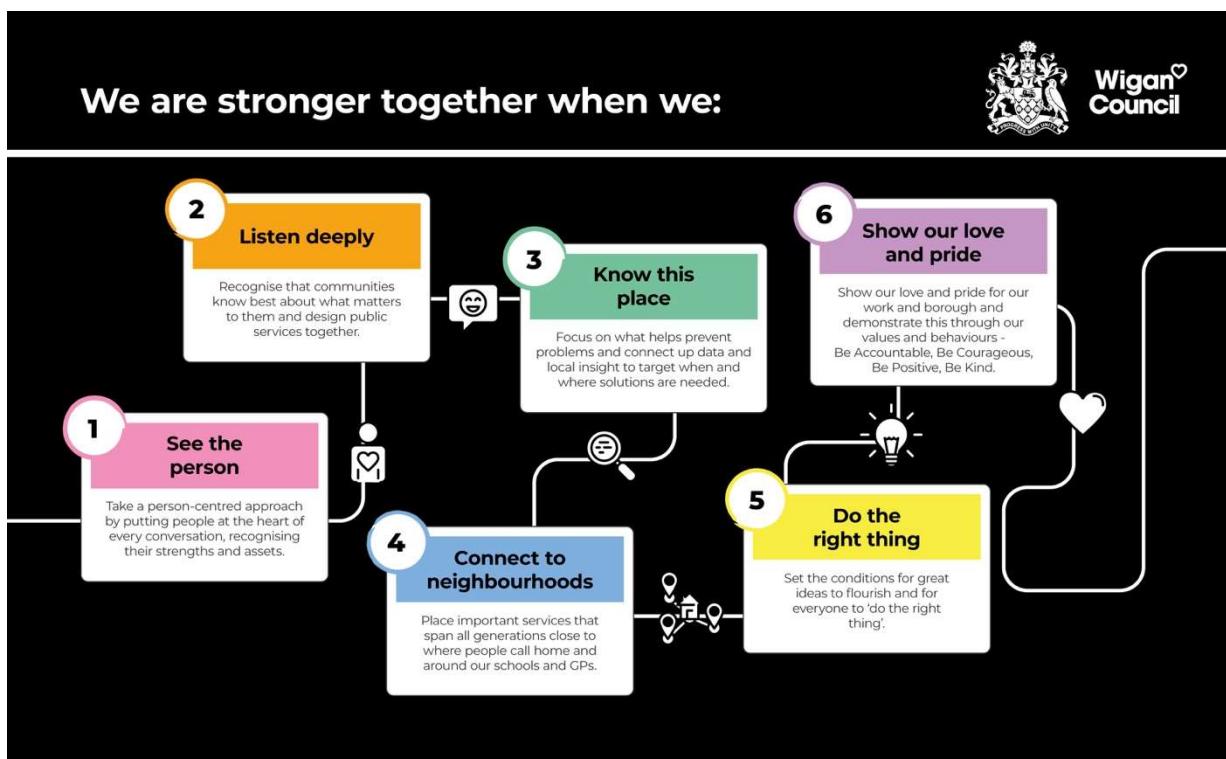
Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

"Together, in genuine partnership with our residents and businesses, who know our communities best, we will help each town and neighbourhood in the borough to celebrate and maintain their identity whilst understanding and helping to achieve what is needed to thrive."

As residents, businesses, public services and community organisations of this borough we will come together to deliver these two key missions.

We also listened carefully to what people told us was important when staff were working with residents or in partnership. We know we are stronger together when we work in this way:

We are stronger together when we:



Wigan Council

As one of the biggest employers in the borough we have focussed on our relationship with staff through an innovative range of engagement, reward, and recognition initiatives. We were crowned 'Council of the Year' in the prestigious APSE Service Awards 2023, ie Awards 2021 LGC Awards 2019. Leader of Wigan Council Councillor David Molyneux said: "Just to be shortlisted in such a prestigious category at these national awards is a great accolade for the council but to win is phenomenal. This is an enormous achievement for us and is acknowledgement of all that we have achieved."

Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive of Wigan Council said: "The recognition Wigan Council gets on a national level is down to the hard work of our brilliant staff. We look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners to reform services and adopting a person-centred approach that has our residents' strengths at the heart."

As an organisation we have a vision for Wigan borough to be the best possible place for people to live and work.

We care for our staff

Wigan Council has been named an excellent employer, by the Workplace Wellbeing Charter, a national accreditation that recognises businesses that achieve the highest standards in workforce wellbeing. Achieving the highest level of excellence in five of the eight Workplace Wellbeing Charter standards and scoring highly in the other three areas shows how Wigan's commitment to our staff and caring for the health and wellbeing of Team Wigan is real!



If you are courageous, positive, accountable, and kind then Wigan Council is the perfect place for your next training placement!

About Wigan as a place

Wigan is an exciting and vibrant borough, encompassing Wigan and Leigh towns, serving approximately 330,000 residents. Geographically it lies between the major cities of Manchester and Liverpool and affords great transport links, making Wigan an ideal destination to live, work and visit.

Complemented by many outdoor spaces to enjoy, the Wigan borough has plenty of great places to visit. Our residents enjoy living close to beautiful countryside, as 70% of Wigan's 77 square miles is green open space. This 'Greenheart' includes stunning flashes, woodlands, wetlands, canals, and green space. It is a great place for outdoor activities for all the family to explore.

Wigan is also home to many high quality and beautifully maintained parks such as Mesnes Park and Lilford Park. For the more adventurous, Haigh Woodland Park has a high ropes course, mini golf, train rides and nature walks as well as the chance to see the grand Haigh Hall, dating back to the early 19th century and owned by Lord Crawford.

[You can find out more about what Wigan has to offer on our website.](#)