



Wigan 
Council

Public Health Registrars Training Placement

Welcome to Wigan

Thank you for considering a training placement with Wigan's Public Health team. Wigan is a pretty special place to work, and we are keen to welcome you onboard. There will be plenty for you to get involved with and we are sure your ideas and perspectives will be valued by our teams and residents.

You'll be joining a supportive team where we work collaboratively to get things done in an organisation which has strong leadership and real ambition to improve health outcomes for residents.

The Council has been on a journey of reform for several years now and this continues as we strive for public sector excellence. An important part of our journey has been the contribution of the public health team, who have ensured the focus on improving health and addressing health inequalities is embedded in local plans and strategies. We have been able to transform our system and build great relationships, securing wider adoption of the approaches that support residents to lead happier and healthier lives.

We have delivered improvements in public health outcomes in Wigan over the past 10 years, but we're now seeing new challenges facing our residents alongside stubbornly enduring ones. In response our Health and Wellbeing Board has recently refocused our priorities for system wide action, providing new emphasis to some aspects of our public health work, aligned to the Greater Manchester NHS Wigan Locality Plan.

Now is a great time to come and train with us, we are already doing great work but under refreshed leadership and with a new strategy in place there is a renewed energy driving us forward. We hope you feel inspired to read more about our local priorities and what is like to work in Wigan. 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 on l.wharton1@wigan.gov.uk



Rachael Musgrave
Director Public Health



Laura Wharton
Assistant Director Public Health

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 Interim Chief Executive and also holds the Wigan Civil Contingencies portfolio.

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 excellent local opportunities for public health training and development, including for Speciality Trainees.

Meet our current registrars

Charlie and Megan joined the Wigan public health team as Speciality Trainees in August 2023. Here is what they have to say about their experiences to date.

I was placed in Wigan in my ST1 year, and have found it a rich and rewarding experience. I was able to jump straight into leading a needs assessment project and, supported by the team, delivered a report to Health and Wellbeing Board within my first few months.

I've also had the opportunity to shadow projects across the Public Health portfolio here, which has allowed me to gain loads of knowledge. In my first weeks, 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 great 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 serving. 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 ST1

I have been in Wigan for 6 months having joined at the start of my ST1 year. The team have been very welcoming and approachable, and the work I have been involved with up to this point has been meaningful and relevant to my training and development needs. Adjusting to work in a local authority has been challenging, but the supervision has been supportive and accommodating of the demands of the MPH. I am looking forward to continuing my placement in ST2.

Megan O'Donovan ST1

Your training experience

We are currently at an exciting stage of development following the arrival of our new Director and Assistant Director. 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.

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.

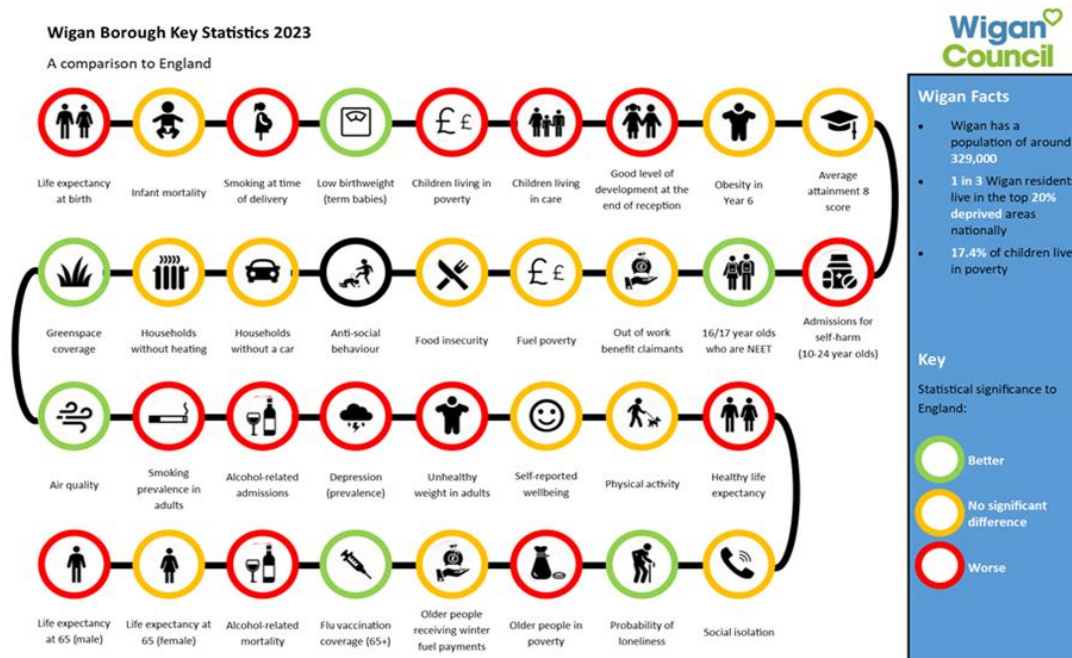
We have a flexible approach to working patterns, where service delivery allows, which can ease worries around commuting and maintaining commitments at home. We have modern office space in the centre of Wigan which allows collaboration with colleagues and quiet space to focus.

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.

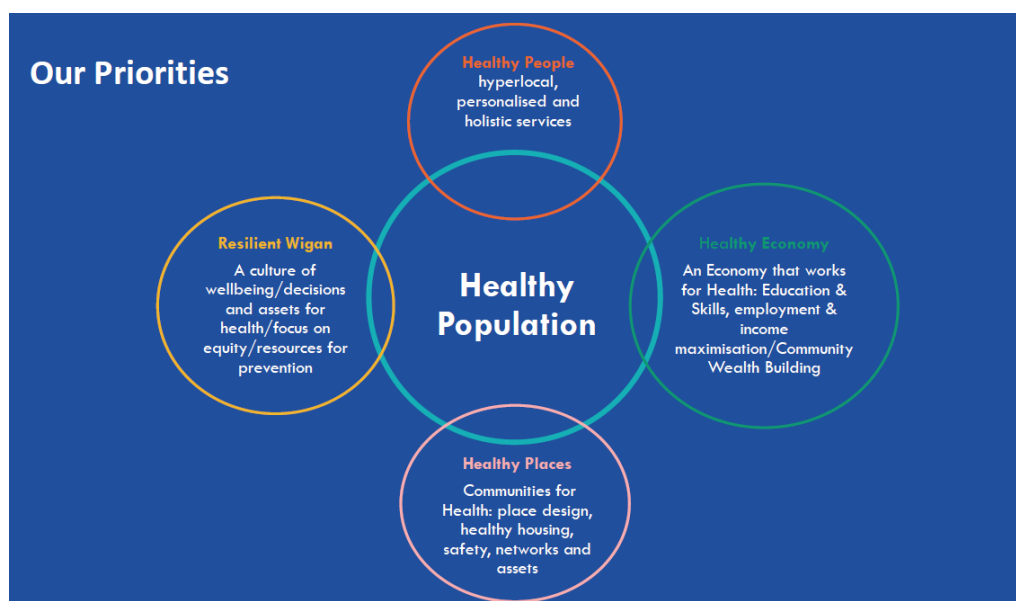
Your placement will be supervised by Rachel or Laura who are both experienced educational supervisors, and, as we do with all our employees, a workplace buddy will be on hand to help with the small things. As a disability confident employer, we are happy to talk about any support you may need before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

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.



‘Creating Health’ is Wigan’s new strategy for health and wellbeing which 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.



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 by both the motorway network and public transport. We have a strong commitment to active travel, with bikes available to loan if you need to get around the place without a car.

Our residents enjoy living close to beautiful countryside, and we have a strong sporting tradition, embedding passion and belief within our community. We have several exciting projects underway in partnership with key developers and investors, including our flagship £135m redevelopment of Wigan Galleries Shopping Centre.

We are proud of our industrial heritage and the contribution we make to the prosperity of the Greater Manchester region. We are home to recognised large businesses – whether lunch is Heinz baked beans or a Patak's curry, they were both made in Wigan.

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

About the council

We're all about people here at Wigan Council, applying our Deal Principles to work in an asset-based way alongside our communities. Our incredible 5000 strong workforce, our behaviours, the permission we have to innovate and our approach to working alongside our residents and partners in our communities is at the heart of what we do. We are the ninth largest metropolitan authority in the country and the second largest in Greater Manchester, delivering over 700 services.

We get huge recognition on a national level; we were crowned 'Council of the Year' in the 2019, 2021 and 2023 in the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) awards. We have been named an excellent employer, through our accreditation against the Workplace Wellbeing Charter, illustrating our deep commitment to keeping our teams happy and healthy.

We are determined to remain at the forefront of local public service excellence and are again radically re-thinking our strategic intent to ensure we support our residents and communities through the specific challenges and opportunities of this coming decade.

As we carry out this strategic re-set, we recognise that fully implementing our community health and wealth building mission and meaningfully addressing the structural inequalities in our borough will be deeper components of our future whilst continuing to utilise the latest technology and digital methods to transform how we work in a truly preventative way.

[Find out more why people want to work at Team Wigan](#)