

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM**

## **Specialty Registrar Training Prospectus**

**January 2023**



# TRAINING LOCATION

## CHESHIRE LINES BUILDING

Wirral Public Health Team is based at the main Wirral Council office at the Cheshire Lines building.

Cheshire Lines Building is situated within Birkenhead town centre, close to the beautiful and historic Hamilton Square, which is Birkenhead's commercial and administrative centre. The building also accommodates NHS Integrated Care System colleagues (NHS Cheshire and Merseyside).

We currently work to a flexible, hybrid model, with an expectation to be in the office a couple of days per week, working remotely the rest of the time.



Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral,  
Merseyside  
CH41 1ND

# GETTING HERE...

Cheshire Lines is well located for travel across Cheshire and Merseyside, and the Northwest with excellent road, and public transport links.

## By public transport

Hamilton Square Rail Station is located opposite Cheshire Lines Building and Birkenhead Central and Conway stations are all close by.

Numerous bus routes run to and from Birkenhead. Further details on public transport options available can be found on the [Merseytravel website](#).

## By car

The building is close to the Queensway tunnel entrance providing quick vehicular access to Liverpool City Centre and onward to the M62. It is also located close to the A41 Dock Link Road to the M53 motorway providing convenient access to Chester, North Wales and Greater Manchester.

## By ferry

Woodside Birkenhead Ferry Terminal is an alternative, and a convenient, 5-minute walk away.

# WHY TRAIN IN WIRRAL?

**Wirral is an amazing place. Named as one of the happiest places to live in the UK, we are surrounded by beautiful beaches, parks and historic, industrial and maritime architecture. It is a great place to grow up, live and work. We are proud of our borough; our local partnerships are strong and our community spirit abundant. Wirral is however a borough of contrasts with some of the most affluent and deprived wards in the UK and where life expectancy varies by around 12 years between the rural and urban areas that sit alongside each other.**

Wirral is the second largest Council in the Liverpool City Region; bigger than many cities, including Newcastle, Derby and Nottingham.

These are exciting times in Wirral with the planned large-scale regeneration of the East of the borough being one of the biggest in Europe.

Find out more and watch this [video of the regeneration project in Birkenhead](#).

# WHY TRAIN IN WIRRAL?

The Wirral Public Health Team are well respected within Wirral Council, with strong relationships across all directorates.

We also have strong local partnerships and have recently refreshed our Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy with a strong focus upon improving the conditions and environments in which people in Wirral are born, grow, live, age, work and play. All local partners are signed up to the vision and an agreed approach to reduce health inequalities and improve population health outcomes.

Unlike other local authorities in Merseyside Wirral Council has elected members from all the main political parties with representation from Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, and the Green Party.

Wirral has a strong voluntary, community and faith sector and partners work closely together to develop a new approach to working with local people.

More information:

- [The Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).
- [The Wirral JSNA website and State of the Borough Report](#)

Further information about the work of Wirral Council and its partners can be found on the [main Council Website](#) and on its [news and updates platform, WirralView](#).

# WHAT REGISTRARS SAY ABOUT WIRRAL

I'm half-way through ST4 and nearing the end of my training. I joined Wirral for 6 months during the peak of COVID and was really impressed at how welcoming the team was, even at the busiest of times. I was given some really important areas to work on – helping build our school's support team, setting up the local contact tracing team, it was a big step up but have received lots of support: I've just returned from New Zealand with 18 months out of programme and it's been a bit of an adjustment getting back into non-COVID public health but I have been given some very big projects in sexual health, substance misuse and mental health, and I am supported as I take more of a leadership role and get ready for consultantship. I live in Chester and come into the office 2/3 days a week and the team is super welcoming.



I'd really recommend Wirral as a placement; I feel here there's a real drive to work with communities and the third sector in a positive and meaningful way.

**DR ROB GREEN ST4**

Wirral was my first choice for placement as an ST1. The first year of training is mainly taken up with the Master's in Public Health at Liverpool, but one day per week is on placement. The team was very welcoming despite all working remotely due to the pandemic at that time. I was given some interesting discrete pieces of work during my first year, such as a rapid review to inform interventions to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake. In the last couple of months as an ST2 I have been given bigger pieces of work such as updating the Air Quality Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, localising the regional strategy on suicide prevention, and facilitating GP outreach clinics into drug treatment services. We are now doing hybrid working with a mix of office based and home working which gives me flexibility around childcare arrangements.



I have had lots of support from my supervisor and the wider public health team who have helped me to understand how public health works within local councils.

**DR ZARA HANSEN ST2**

# THE TEAM

Wirral has an experienced public health team with a wide variety of backgrounds, providing a wealth of experience and learning opportunities. The team includes an intelligence team who bring together and analyse research, information and intelligence about the Wirral which is published [on their website](#).

During 2022 two exciting developments were put in place. We now have a Qualitative Insight Team bringing wide ranging expertise on qualitative research in-house.

Also, following the stepping down of the COVID pandemic response, we established a Health Protection Service dedicated to support a range of health protection activities whilst providing surge capacity for outbreaks.

Our consultant team is highly experienced, having worked in Public Health for many years. We have also recruited a new consultant who will join us in the new financial year.

Our Director of Public Health is (relatively) new, so it is an exciting time to join the team.

We have a long history of hosting registrars who then go on to do wonderful things. Registrars are a key part of our team in Wirral, and due to our size, we often host at least two registrars each year at different phases in training. We also host GP registrars who undertake placements with our public health team and have graduates/ apprentices within the team too. All of which means we are well set up to offer a supportive learning environment.

Wirral Council also hosts the Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Collaborative (ChaMPs).

# THE PUBLIC HEALTH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Dave Bradburn**  
**Director of Public Health**

Dave was appointed the Director of Public Health for Wirral in October 2022. Dave has worked within Public Health for nearly 30 years. This has mainly been within Cheshire and Warrington but also working across Cheshire and Merseyside and more broadly across the Northwest. He began his career in Knowsley on an employment trainee scheme, which provided him with the grounding required to progress and build his career in Public Health



**Jane Harvey**  
**Consultant**

Jane began working in Wirral in 1998 as a research assistant in the Public Health team. Jane is the current Public Health consultant lead for Children, Young People and Families and is passionate about putting them at the heart of the council's and wider Wirral partnership's agenda for reducing inequalities. Working closely with colleagues in Children's Services in particular, she is committed to improving the support offer to all children, whilst ensuring a targeted approach to those who need it most.



**Dr. Elspeth Anwar**  
**Consultant**

Elsbeth is the lead trainer for Wirral. She is a medical doctor by background and trained in the Northwest on the Public Health training scheme before joining the Wirral Public Health team as a full-time consultant in 2018. Elspeth supports registrars to achieve, and sign off their learning outcomes, but also to gain exposure to working within public health in a local authority and the varied challenges this brings.



**Jenny Smedley**  
**Operations  
Resilience Lead**

Jen Smedley is the Public Health Operations Resilience Lead and joined the Public Health Team to provide management support during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has a Master's in Business Administration and is qualified in Project Management. Jen has a background in operations management with over 15 years' experience managing operations and a variety of complex programmes and projects.

# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss Wirral Council Public Health Team as a potential placement, please contact our lead trainer Elspeth Anwar.

Email: [elspethanwar@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:elspethanwar@wirral.gov.uk)

