**PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING PROSPECTUS**

**Public Health Liverpool - an exciting Training Location**

Liverpool is a wonderful international city with a great sense of pride amongst its population of 469,700 and a unique identity. In the 1800s, more than 30% of the world’s trade was passing through its docks – now a World Heritage site. During the twentieth century, the city experienced a massive slump to its economy. Since the middle of the 1990s, Liverpool has undergone major redevelopment and planning to revive the economy, including the massive Liverpool ONE shopping and leisure project in the heart of the city. This was completed in 2008 when Liverpool was crowned European Capital of Culture.

Against this backdrop, we have huge public health challenges. Liverpool is the most deprived local authority in the country and one third of its children are living in poverty. Liverpool people have been hit particularly hard by reductions in funding of the Local Authority and changes in social security payments. People have poorer health relative to others in England. Too many of our residents are dying prematurely from preventable causes, with residents expected to live 3 years less than the national average. There are also stark inequalities in health across the city, with men in the most deprived parts of Liverpool expected to live almost 11 years less than men in the east deprived areas.

Encouragingly, progress is being made in tackling health inequalities. We need to celebrate the 43% reduction in premature mortality rate for cardiovascular disease since 2001-03. We have one of the highest rates of 4 week smoking quits. Childhood vaccination rates are excellent. Alcohol admission rates are reducing and teenage pregnancy rates are falling. Huge challenges remain and public health has a crucial role to play – working with partners to influence policy, investment, development and change to reduce the inequalities.

**The Public Health Department and training**

Public Health Liverpool is a unique public health team, combining the skills of public health consultants, data specialists, evidence reviewers and insight and social marketing specialists. We are working across sectors to increase the focus on prevention of ill-health and early detection. We have experience in implementing large scale innovative programmes, including around smoking and alcohol. We have large scale programmes to build skills in staff deliver brief advice to improve health. We are working through local authority regulation to develop healthier local environments.

We have a strong advocacy function with current priority advocacy areas including advocating against e-cigarettes, advocating for minimum unit pricing for alcohol and advocating for sustainable walking and cycling initiatives which tackle health inequalities.

We have a strong intelligent analysis function and provide expert advice and guidance to commissioners and policy makers. We carry out statistical modelling of diseases and health trends and the impact of interventions on current and future health needs. We have expertise in geo-demographic profiling of diseases and lifestyles to inform targeted interventions. We can identify where outcomes are poor and need to be improved, whether certain groups are more disadvantaged than others, where outcomes are good and can be built on further, what may be emerging issues for the future that we might need to prevent now. Through combining this intelligence with evidence of what interventions are effective, commissioners can target scarce resources to areas of greatest need, and where they will have the greatest impact.

Customer insight and social marketing is rapidly rising up the agenda for public sector organisations. Public sector expectations of local services are growing, and only by truly understanding what is really important to people can a service be efficient and effective. Public Health Liverpool develop innovative insight techniques and deliver award-winning social marketing campaigns, with considerable success in improving services, changing health strategies, and impacting positively on health behaviours.

Liverpool has a strong public health team of 41 led by a widely experienced consultant team who are enthusiastic about training. We strongly value our public health speciality registrars, and encourage and support registrars to take on new challenges. Your portfolio will be based on your training and development needs and the opportunities available. Registrars have a named trainer but have the opportunity to work on diverse projects supervised by different consultants.

Normally we have up to 4 registrars at different stages in their training. When you are working for part A or B, there are trainers who are willing to help you prepare. We may also host trainees from other specialties gaining experience in public health. The Public Health team is based in the city-centre. We will be relocating to another city-centre location before September 2014.

Our new setting, as part of local government, is an exciting place to learn and we have been warmly welcomed by the council and elected members. As a team, we continue to learn how best to work in new ways to influence the health of the population. We have excellent relationships with Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health England, NHS England and key partners.

There are good links, including joint training positions, with the academic departments in Liverpool University and John Moores University. Registrars are encouraged to participate in academic forums.

In these times of change, we will ensure that the training remains relevant and you get a robust training experience to equip you for the future.

**Current trainers**

We currently have three accredited trainers in Liverpool, with the expectation of an additional trainer later in 2014. The current Director of Public Health, **Dr Paula Grey**, has built up the team in Liverpool to have a strong training focus. Paula will sadly be retiring at end March 2014 and an interim Director of Public Health will be appointed prior to a substantive appointment later in 2014.

**Dr Sandra Davies**, Associate Director of Public Health – Health Improvement.

Sandra leads the health improvement function within public health and has overseen the development of many lifestyles and health improvement services including the successful Stop Smoking service and Health Trainer service. She leads on strategy development for health improvement and performance monitoring of service delivery against outcomes.

**Dr Emer Coffey,** Associate Director of Public Health – Health Protection.

Emer leads on the new health protection function of the Local Authority, overseeing health protection arrangements across the city, and advising the CCG on health protection issues. There are lots of opportunities to work on health protection in Liverpool, including vaccination, infection control, improving prevention and control of infectious diseases, environmental hazards, emergency planning and responding to incidents and outbreaks from the Local Authority perspective.

**Mr Martin Smith,** Consultant in Public Health – Wider Determinants.

Martin leads on the wider determinants function within public health with a Brief to support the embedding of public health within the local authority setting across the upstream areas such as housing, planning, transport and community safety. This includes building strong connections and networks with colleagues and stakeholders through for example the development of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Liverpool. The remit is wide ranging and also includes children and families.

**Dr Paula Parvulescu,** Consultant in Public Health Medicine – Healthcare Public Health

Paula leads the public health support to Liverpool CCG and takes a lead on population healthcare. She has responsibility for the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, oversees the work of the intelligence and health needs assessment team and takes an active role in the development of the insight and social marketing projects in the department. In her role, she works with NHS commissioners to make sure that a population approach is undertaken and pathways and models of care are based on best available evidence. Paula plans to be accredited imminently as an educational supervisor.

**Experience of current trainee: Dr Peter MacPherson**

“I am an ST2 trainee in Public Health and have been based in Public Health Liverpool since August 2013. I have gained substantial hands-on experience in investigating and responding to key public health challenges in the city. Stand-out opportunities have included a project to assist with development of a new community-based model for improving diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C among drug users in the city, and working to assess the health needs of asylum-seekers and refugees in Liverpool.

The training environment in Public Health Liverpool is extremely supportive and I have enjoyed working with a dynamic and motivated team. Although Liverpool has considerable public health challenges, I feel that I am really working to improve the health of the people of the city.”

**Contact**

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of coming to work in the public health department at Liverpool City Council, please contact Dr Emer Coffey, care of ann.taylor@liverpool.gov.uk

March 2014