

Public Health Training Prospectus 2022



Join our great team, shortlisted for the LGC Awards 2021 and punching above our weight for meeting health challenges, improving outcomes and supporting our local community.



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The Public Health Team are based at Runcorn Town Hall, easy to get to, situated in a park and surrounded by green spaces.

WHY CHOOSE HALTON?

We are an experienced Public Health team, including an Interim Director of Public Health, Ifeoma Onyia, and two consultants. The Director of public health was previously an educational supervisor and now acts as a project supervisor. The two consultants are experienced educational supervisors and Julia Rosser is the public health Training Programme Director for Cheshire and Merseyside. All the consultants in Halton are knowledgeable of the local training offer, having themselves been trained in the Cheshire and Merseyside public health training programme.

The public health team is part of the People's Directorate located within Halton Borough Council, with the Director of public health reporting to the People's Director, and meeting regularly with the council's Chief Executive. The public health team has a number of elements, the core public health team, including: consultants, commissioners, programme officers, and analysts, and the Health Improvement, Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams. These teams are integrated into the public health department, offering a more co-ordinated way of working on local health protection and environmental issues. This arrangement presents opportunities for working collaboratively to develop integrated strategic approaches to improving health and wellbeing, influencing policy around the wider determinants of health and addressing inequalities.

The public health team has necessarily grown and adapted to respond to Covid 19, with a Halton Outbreak Support Team (HOST) employed for outbreak control, community support for vulnerable cases, testing and vaccinations.

QUOTES FROM REGISTRARS

I've been made to feel really welcome in Halton and I've been given the right balance of responsibility and support for my stage of training. It's a big but friendly team who've really pulled together during the COVID-19 pandemic and I'm proud to have been part of such a comprehensive response to contact tracing, testing and vaccination and I've particularly enjoyed being able to lead on the support to education settings, as well as offering consultant-level cover to the response.

Beyond COVID, I've been reporting directly to the DPH on strategy and intelligence work for the Health and Wellbeing Board and for the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, as well as getting interesting opportunities, such as providing the public health input to a COMAH emergency planning exercise. I've delivered teaching sessions for hospital doctors and will be supervising an FY2 doctor in the coming months.

I appreciated being asked to contribute to senior-level meetings within and beyond the department. Support for achieving public health training requirements and general pastoral support has been excellent and I'd recommend Halton to any registrar.

Dr Matthew Atkinson, ST4, 2020-21

As my first training placement, working at Halton has been a great experience. It is genuinely a lovely team to be part of and everyone is very friendly and approachable. Halton are also experienced in hosting registrars and the educational supervision has been incredibly supportive.

The public health team has wide-ranging expertise and a broad portfolio of work, as well as strong community linkages. As such there are a lot of interesting pieces of work to potentially get involved in. I have also found that there is real opportunity and encouragement to explore different areas, develop ideas and lead on new pieces of work.

I have been involved in various pieces of work including: supporting the schools COVID-19 response (e.g. reporting epidemiological data; adapting guidance for local use), promoting and disseminating the "e-Bug" educational resources, evaluating a programme to provide free activities and nutritious meals for children during school holidays, reviewing the council's approach to fuel poverty, coordinating journal club sessions and developing a joint Strategic Needs Assessment on the public health impacts of extreme weather and climate change.

I would highly recommend Halton as a placement.

Dr Anne Doble, ST1, 2021-22

ABOUT HALTON



Halton Borough Council is relatively small with a resident population of approximately 126,000. We are situated to the south east of Liverpool, and are within easy reach of Manchester, Cheshire and the Lake District. The borough consists of two towns, Widnes and Runcorn linked by the new Mersey Gateway Bridge (pictured).

Halton has a long history of innovative integrated working between the NHS and local authority and benefits from close working relationships with Halton CCG, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and other partners and providers.

Halton is an area of high deprivation, with some of the most challenging health indicators in the North West. However, some of Halton's successes to date are attributable to strong public and partnership collaboration in this relatively small borough. Through enabling community and voluntary networks, public health issues have a very high profile.

Halton provides some unique challenges around environmental and emergency planning issues, having amongst the highest density of COMAH sites in the country and a long industrial legacy posing unusual public health challenges around contaminated land, air quality and emergency planning.

TRAINING IN HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

We can host up to two registrars as well as foundation doctors on their four month public health placement. Home working has been common recently, but we will all usually be sat in the same office in Runcorn Town Hall. This allows for support and opportunities to understand, and be involved in the breadth of public health work that takes place.

Registrars are supported throughout their placements, with regular one-to-ones with their supervisor. They can participate in team meetings, journal clubs and organisational workshops, with opportunities tailored to their training requirements. Registrars are also encouraged to participate in internal and external sessions for preparation for their Faculty

exams. Senior registrars gain leadership experience, working closely with the DPH in Halton and regionally, and through developing a portfolio of work. They are also encouraged to support more junior registrars, and provide supervision, training and management of foundation doctors.

FACILITIES

The Public Health team is located in the offices of Runcorn Town Hall, surrounded by Town Hall Park and close to Runcorn old town, which is great for a quick stroll at lunch time. Runcorn town hall is close to Runcorn Town Centre and Runcorn Shopping City.

Runcorn mainline train station is less than a mile on foot.

There are changing facilities and showers on site, and bike storage.

Free convenient car parking is available at the Town Hall and council parking is free throughout Halton. There are electric vehicle charging points at Runcorn Town Hall and the Municipal building in Widnes, which is head office. Runcorn Town Hall has good road links to the M56, M6, M57 and M62. There are two tolled bridges to cross the Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes.

All registrars have their own computer and phone, and are treated as a member of the Public Health team, with admin support. Registrars also have the facility to work from home (with prior agreement). The office is fully accessible.

ABOUT US

All registrars will be assigned a trainer based on their interests and training requirements. There are regular structured meetings with the trainer. The registrar will work closely with and have access to all the consultants and the director of public health on a day to day basis.

Dr Ifeoma Onyia

Interim Director of Public Health

Project supervisor



Ifeoma is the interim Director of public health and also leads on evidence and intelligence and healthcare quality including pharmacies and health checks. Ifeoma is also seconded to NIHR to build public health research capacity.

'I trained in the North West on the Mersey deanery training scheme and interestingly started my very first public health placement in Halton. It's a very lively place to work with good intelligence support from the team that I lead and very close working links with the CCG, which makes it easy to start conversations, exchange ideas and influences planning. There are opportunities to work directly with primary care, support CCG work, conducts needs assessments and other related work'.

To get to know Ifeoma a bit better please link [here](#)

Julia Rosser

Consultant in Public Health

Lead trainer



Julia is the training lead in Halton, and leads on maternal and child health. She is also the Training Programme Director for Cheshire and Merseyside.

'In Halton we take training very seriously and value the contribution that registrars bring to the team. We aim to fully integrate registrars into the team and provide a full induction and ongoing support. I, like the other consultants, trained in Halton. I completed my final two years here and had an acting consultant post, with the lead for maternal and child health in my final months on the scheme. I was very grateful for the high level of responsibility and opportunities offered to me here during my training.

I have always found Halton to be a great place to work. The Public Health team are supportive and friendly, and the area is small enough that you get to know people easily. The health profile of Halton means there are plenty of challenges and opportunities to work across the spectrum of public health, and develop your areas of interest. The local organisations strive to work collaboratively and in an integrated way, indeed the quality of the partnership working in Halton has been commended in inspections.'

Sarah Johnson-Griffiths
Consultant in Public Health
Educational supervisor



Sarah is the lead consultant on Health Protection, overseeing the Environmental Health and Public Protection functions, as well as lead for areas including wider determinants, adult and older peoples health, sexual health, cancer and mental health.

Sarah is also a trustee for the local Citizens Advice Bureau and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health and is a member of the Editorial Board for the RSPH Journal Perspectives in Public Health.

'I completed public health training in the Mersey Deanery Programme in 2010. I was the first non-medical trainee to complete the Specialist Health protection training and this is one area my interest still lies (amongst many other things).

Born and bred in the local areas, I started working in Halton in 2013. I am passionate about proving opportunities for everyone to improve their health, life chances and aspirations.

One area I am particularly interested in, other than health protection is the wider determinants agenda and in Halton we have an excellent record of working across all council departments and in particular with regeneration; acknowledging that improving health, wellbeing and aspiration comes hand in hand with local area growth, economic development and enterprise. We are in an exciting era of local area regeneration which can only serve our populations well if we ensure that public health principles are embedded throughout the processes.

Halton is well known for its forward thinking and innovative approaches to tackling our public health issues. Halton is a truly interesting and dynamic place to work and train'.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LINKS

The Director of Public Health is part of the corporate management team in the council and the Public Health team contribute to the development of corporate strategy. The Director of Public Health also supports the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and leads the development of the health and wellbeing and ICS strategies.

Halton is proactive in its collaboration across the Liverpool City Region and Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health Network. This provides many opportunities for registrars to work across a larger footprint.

Public health leadership is driving the development of the Local Strategic Partnership, 'One Halton' and agreeing local priorities. One Halton brings together strategic leaders from all partner agencies within Halton, and provides significant opportunities to experience and demonstrate systems leadership.

As part of Cheshire and Merseyside, Halton is currently working with the Institute for Health Equity (IHE) to develop an ambitious Marmot Community programme to improve population health, reduce inequalities, and build back fairer from COVID-19.

PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Within this training location there is a particular interest in the wider determinants of health and in using evidence-based methodologies to prevent ill-health. There are good opportunities to gain an understanding of partnership working, community engagement and involvement, and commissioning for health improvement. More senior registrars are able to take on leadership roles in particular areas.

Halton Public Health team are uniquely placed to provide the very broadest range of public health experiences, being the only public health team within the North West (possibly nationally) to be fully integrated with the Environmental Health team and Public Protection services.

The close nature of partner agencies and development of novel system wide approached provides invaluable opportunities to gain experience of high level system leadership approaches in action and develop experience of working within a culture of innovation from the highest level.

ACADEMIC LINKS

There are good links with local Universities, including Liverpool University, Liverpool John Moores University, Chester and Salford University, and opportunities to collaborate on pieces of work. Ifeoma's NIHR role developing research opportunities also provides additional exposure to regional research opportunities.

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE/CPD

The public health team provide opportunities for continuous professional development and learning. There are regular team meetings where time is set aside for clinical governance and learning. Senior registrars are given the opportunity to organise learning events for the team and are encouraged to support and engage in the journal club.

FOUNDATION DOCTORS TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Registrars in Halton are able to contribute to the delivery of Public Health teachings for F1 doctors, one-to-one learning sessions for F2 doctors as well as acting in a supervisory role.

Halton Public Health host Foundation 2 doctors on their 4-month rotation. This provides opportunities for Public Health registrars to deliver one-to-one learning sessions in various aspects of public health. The F2 doctors undertake a wide variety of projects and there is an opportunity for senior registrars to supervise some of the projects.

For example, one of the F2 doctors produced a Needs Assessment on Unaccompanied Syrian Children (UASC) under the supervision of a senior registrar. This work won the FPH Sam Ramaiah Award which rewards projects seeking to improve the health of black and minority ethnic communities or reduce health inequalities in the United Kingdom.

Examples of Registrars' work

- Support the production of the GP practice health profiles
- Evidence review of arts and health
- Evaluation of long term conditions pilot
- Support the production of the public health annual report
- Project managed the setting up of a breastfeeding incentive programme
- Evaluation of Healthy Start Vitamins Pilot
- Researched and compiled the Suicide Audit
- Survey into public perceptions and public engagement on air quality
- Lead for reducing alcohol harm
- Lead for child and maternal public health
- Lead on the delivery of the community conversation around alcohol (Alcohol inquiry)
- Fuel poverty Needs Assessment
- Development of Affordable Warmth strategy
- Lead for Affordable Warmth strategy
- Review of sexual health service
- Review of non-clinical HIV support service
- Commissioning substance misuse services
- Working with trading standards to support people who are victims of scams.
- Work with the CCG to pilot having a paediatrician working within the community
- Health Needs assessment into young offenders' health
- Cross health and care economy system wide strategic development