

PHE East of England – training prospectus

Introduction

Public Health England¹ (PHE) was established on 1st April 2013 as an Executive Agency of the Department of Health. PHE is the national public health agency for England and brings together some 70 separate public health organisations including the Health Protection Agency, Public Health Observatories, Cancer Registries, Screening Quality Assurance Reference Centres, and the screening and immunisation functions embedded within NHS. Public Health England (PHE) East of England is one of nine PHE Centres across England. Each Centre brings together the range of public health functions at a local level and acts as the interface between PHE and the local delivery of public health within local authorities and elsewhere.

PHE East of England (PHE EoE) was formed in 2015 from the two former Public Health England Centres of Anglia & Essex and South Midlands & Hertfordshire as part of the *Securing our Future*² - PHE's internal change process. The area covered by the Centre includes the following local authorities:

County Councils: Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire;

Unitary Authorities: Southend, Thurrock, Peterborough, Luton, Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Milton Keynes.

This includes the whole of the East of England Speciality Training Programme³ and placements are open to all registrars in the programme.

PHE East of England is led by Professor Aliko Ahmed and has deputy directors for each of the main areas of public health.

What training opportunities does PHE East of England offer?

The experience offered by the different parts of the Centre was previously available through separate placements. Following the *Securing our Future* changes within PHE, East of England now offers training placements which can be customised to fit the interests and learning needs of individual registrars, as well as meeting the current and future needs of the PH system and community. Training placements within PHE East of England could cover the following areas of public health:

- Health protection (including Field Epidemiology);
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Healthcare public health;
- Specialised commissioning;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

² [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417629/Public_Health_England_and_Remit_Priorities_Letter_2015-16_Final_2_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417629/Public_Health_England_and_Remmit_Priorities_Letter_2015-16_Final_2_.pdf)

³ https://heeo.hee.nhs.uk/ph_home

- Commissioning Screening and Immunisation services;
- Screening Quality Assurance (both cancer and non-cancer screening programmes);
- Knowledge and Intelligence (both local K&I work and exposure to national areas of work);
- Disease registration;
- Dental public health;
- Health policy and management;
- Academic public health.

The opportunities within these areas are explored in more detail below.

With the exception of health protection, where most registrars will undertake dedicated placements, it is expected that most registrars would cover more than one of these areas in a typical 6 month placement at the Centre.

Health protection

PHE East of England health protection service has a health protection team that works from Thetford (Norfolk) and Harlow (Essex) as well as the Field Epidemiology Service (FES) based in Cambridge.

All speciality registrars are required to spend a minimum of 3 months in one of the health protection teams in line with the Faculty of Public Health curriculum⁴. The teams and the FES also offer opportunities for further health protection experience and top up or refresher training on an as needed basis.

The speciality training programme also has specialist training opportunities in health protection. These can be applied for once in training and rotations are likely to involve additional time at one of the sites within the Centre.

Health protection placements will address learning outcomes in key areas⁵ 6 and 1 but may also support learning in key areas 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8.

Health improvement/Health and Wellbeing

PHE East of England is responsible for providing local leadership and support for health improvement and for acting as the link between PHE and local authorities. The Centre has particular responsibilities for alcohol and drugs, workplace health and health and justice.

The health improvement work undertaken by the Centre is varied and can help to address learning outcomes in a number of key areas 5, 2, 3 and 4.

⁴ http://www.fph.org.uk/content_of_training#curriculum

⁵ <http://www.fph.org.uk/uploads/2010%20MASTER%20PH%20Curriculum0610b%20-%20Updated%204%20June.pdf>

Healthcare public health

There are two Consultants in Healthcare Public Health based in the East of England. They work closely with NHS England to support commissioning as well as providing public health input into the quality improvement infrastructure (clinical senate, clinical networks etc.). They also support colleagues based in Local Authorities who work in healthcare public health with Clinical Commissioning Groups. There are opportunities for registrars to work with the healthcare public health team in a variety of different areas. Recent projects have included a review of seven day services for the Clinical Senate and reviewing and addressing variation in diabetes care processes in primary care.

A placement with the team will address learning outcomes in key areas 7 as well as potentially in 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Specialised commissioning

NHS England's regional Midlands & East specialised commissioning team is responsible for supporting and providing professional leadership for the commissioning of specialised services at a local level. Geographically, this covers the West Midlands, North Midlands, Central Midlands and the East of England. Work undertaken covers a wide spectrum of: research for national policies, needs assessments and audit as well as working on new models of service provision in line with the Five Year Forward View⁶. PHE East of England hosts a consultant in specialised commissioning.

Work within specialised commissioning could address learning outcomes in key areas 7 as well as 2, 3, and 4.

Screening and Immunisation (embedded within NHS England)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 created specific roles for NHS England and PHE to commission and provide system leadership of the national screening and immunisation programmes. NHS England commissions these services, and specialist public health staff employed by PHE are embedded in them to provide accountability and leadership for the commissioning of the programmes and to provide system leadership.

NHS England is responsible for the routine commissioning of national screening and immunisation programmes (under the terms of the section 7A agreement and the national service specifications that support it) and the collection of information on disease and coverage. Embedded PHE staff are responsible for supporting NHS England, with system leadership and the commissioning & performance management of screening & immunisation.

Working within screening and immunisation can help to address learning outcomes in key areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 with potential for addressing learning outcomes in other areas too.

⁶ <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/>

Screening QA (East of England QARC)

Historically the cancer and non-cancer screening Quality Assurance (QA) teams worked independently. The transition into PHE has provided an opportunity to reshape the QA teams into a single strong and effective service which strengthens and harmonises the current QA approaches; the Screening QA service.

The cancer screening QA part of the service leads the review of the performance of the NHS cancer screening programme against national quality standards. The programmes that are quality assured are:

- NHS Breast Screening Programme
- NHS Cervical Screening Programme
- NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

The non-cancer screening programmes are:

- Antenatal and newborn
- Young people and adults

The QARC has a Head of Quality Assurance with a core QA team and NHS professionals who take on sessional roles for the QARC as QA leads to oversee audit in their area of professional activity. The functions of QARC include:

- Collection and interpretation of performance and outcome data
- Undertaking QA visits and ongoing monitoring and reviewing of performance against quality assurance standards
- Provision of varied advice and training on screening
- Implementation of national screening policy
- Working with cancer registries to identify and audit cases of invasive cervical cancer

There are opportunities for registrars to work on regional projects relating to the implementation of national policy and possibly also to become involved in the decision making process regarding national screening policy. There are also opportunities to work on audit (using anonymised cancer screening data), and data linkage with the cancer registry. Involvement in the management of serious incident allows opportunities to understand the patient pathway within a screening service, root and branch analysis, and develop recommendations for improving quality and patient safety.

Working within screening QA can help to address learning outcomes in key areas 4, 7 and 8 with potential for addressing learning outcomes in other areas too.

Dental public health

There is a non-resident specialty registrar training programme in dental public health based in PHE East of England. The training programme is supported by Health Education East of England and has been approved for higher training in the specialty of Dental Public Health. The GDC approved curriculum reflects the dental public health competencies as laid down in the specialty training curriculum for Dental Public Health and successful completion will lead to an award of a CCST and

eligibility to join the GDC specialty list. The programme offers very wide experience and there may also be opportunities for the registrar to be seconded to other locations to broaden their experience and fulfil specific educational requirements.

The dental public health team would also be able to offer secondments to public health registrars when suitable projects are identified.

Knowledge and intelligence

The Knowledge and Intelligence Service East (KIS) is part of the Chief Knowledge Officer's Directorate (CKO) within PHE and has a remit for supporting both national and local work. As well as the local Knowledge and Intelligence Service, Cambridge is also the base for some of PHE's national knowledge and intelligence work, including the Learning Disability Observatory, Public Health Data Science and training and workforce development. PHE's Director of Knowledge and Intelligence is also based in Cambridge and there is a range of experience on offer. Work within the CKO Directorate can help address learning outcomes in a range of key areas beyond 1 and 8; particularly key areas 2, 3, 4 and 7.

Disease registration

The National Cancer Registration Service (NCRS) sits within the CKO directorate of Public Health England. The NCRS collects information on all cancers diagnosed and treated in England. Information is collected from across the entire pathway from diagnosis to palliative care and death and includes, for example, details of treatment received, tests conducted and multi-disciplinary team reports. It collects and processes patient level information with sufficient granularity to support services for particular patient cohorts, quality assure data received, and provide feedback to clinical teams and others.

NCRS has 8 regional offices, and the Eastern Office is located in Cambridge.

Placements at NCRS offer registrars an opportunity to get involved in new and innovative national level work, either to study patterns in cancer over time, geography and in different groups of people, or to evaluate treatments, undertake research or to use the wealth of information the registry holds to set up and develop new ways of working or systems that will benefit cancer patients, the health service and/or the population as a whole.

Placements at NCRS also provide an opportunity to work closely with patient groups and professionals from a range of backgrounds e.g. clinicians, analysts, developers and registration officers.

Work with NCRS can help to address learning outcomes across several key areas, especially 1, 2, 3, and 4.

What training support is there?

The Centre has a range of staff all of whom are experts in their own areas of public health and many of whom have considerable experience of training at all levels. There are a range of Clinical Supervisors and several Centre staff are also Educational Supervisors for the specialty training programme. There are usually several registrars working within the Centre at any one time and so there is an opportunity for peer support and joint learning activities.

The Centre has an active learning and development group and offers a range of local learning events including journal clubs, topic specific learning activities and organisational development.

Where would I work?

The main Centre office and most specialist functions are based in Cambridge at Victoria House in Fulbourn. The Health Protection Team is based at two sites in Thetford and Harlow respectively.

- PHE Centre East of England, West Wing, Victoria House, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5XB
- East of England HPT, Thetford Community Healthy Living Centre, Croxton Road, Thetford, IP24 1JD
- East of England HPT, Second Floor Goodman House, Station Approach, Harlow, CM20 2ET

NHS England (for screening & immunisation) has offices in Cambridge, Chelmsford & Welwyn Garden City

Who are the placements aimed at?

Training placements across the Centre are currently aimed at specialty registrars on the public health training programme with one or two placements undertaken by GP registrars from the Cambridgeshire GPVTS. This reflects PHE's responsibilities towards speciality training as well as historic arrangements. Typically, apart from compulsory health protection placements, registrars have undertaken Centre placements during phases 2 and 3 of training. However, the East of England Centre is considering extending the range of training opportunities to registrars in phase 1 in the future.

Securing our Future provides the opportunity for the East Centre to work towards opening up some placements more widely. These may include shorter placements for:

- Individuals seeking work experience in public health
- Post graduate students in public health related disciplines
- International work experience placements

And longer placements for:

- Foundation⁷ 2 doctors
- Exchange placements with staff in similar roles in local authority or CCG settings

How do I access Centre training opportunities?

For speciality registrars placements at the PHE EoE are handled in the same way as any other placement move. It is expected that registrars would discuss their learning needs with their educational supervisor and, if interested in a Centre placement, with the relevant Clinical Supervisors at the Centre in advance of submitting a placement move application.

The training programme placement group, which meets twice a year, will make the decision on placement moves following receipt of a placement move application.

What do registrars think about training at the Centre?

A placement with PHE is an excellent opportunity to experience the range of public health functions that are delivered or further develop skills in one particular area such as analytical skills. There are also opportunities to work on high-profile regional and national projects and with a variety of partners such as NHS England, local authorities, HSCIC, CQC, HEE, universities (including the Cambridge Institute of Public Health) and charities.

A recent registrar had a split placement between LKIS East and Healthcare public health which enabled broader learning and experience across PHE. Examples of projects that registrars have worked on across PHE include:

- Production of health information briefings on a variety of topics including cancer survival, health inequalities, child deaths.
- Creation of a national primary care measures and indicators network.
- Stakeholder consultation on the development of the Fingertips products
- National report on an inpatient learning disability census
- Developing a monthly winter pressures bulletin
- Working with the East of England Clinical Senate on the readiness for 7 day services
- Health Needs Assessments – prison and primary care
- Improving the quality and coverage of NHS Health Checks for people with learning disabilities.
- NHS specialised commissioning service audit.
- Health improvement intervention evaluation

⁷ <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/home>

Appendix 1 – key contacts (as at October 2015):

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