

Public Health Training Experience in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly





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Cornwall and Isles of Scilly are at the southwest tip of the England, with a population of around **575,400 in Cornwall** and **2,300 in the Isles of Scilly**.

This is an area known for its 250 miles of coastline, its surfing beaches, fishing villages and rugged moorland; it is also known for its culture, traditions and language, the arts and the quality of local food. It is an area where affluence and deprivation reside in close proximity. Despite being a playground for the wealthy, many people living in Cornwall live in fuel poverty; the demand on food banks is growing; alcohol-related hospital admissions are high; and the suicide rate (already above the national average) is rising.



If you come to Cornwall to train in public health you can experience the benefits of your picturesque surroundings, but also make a valuable contribution to reducing inequalities in health.

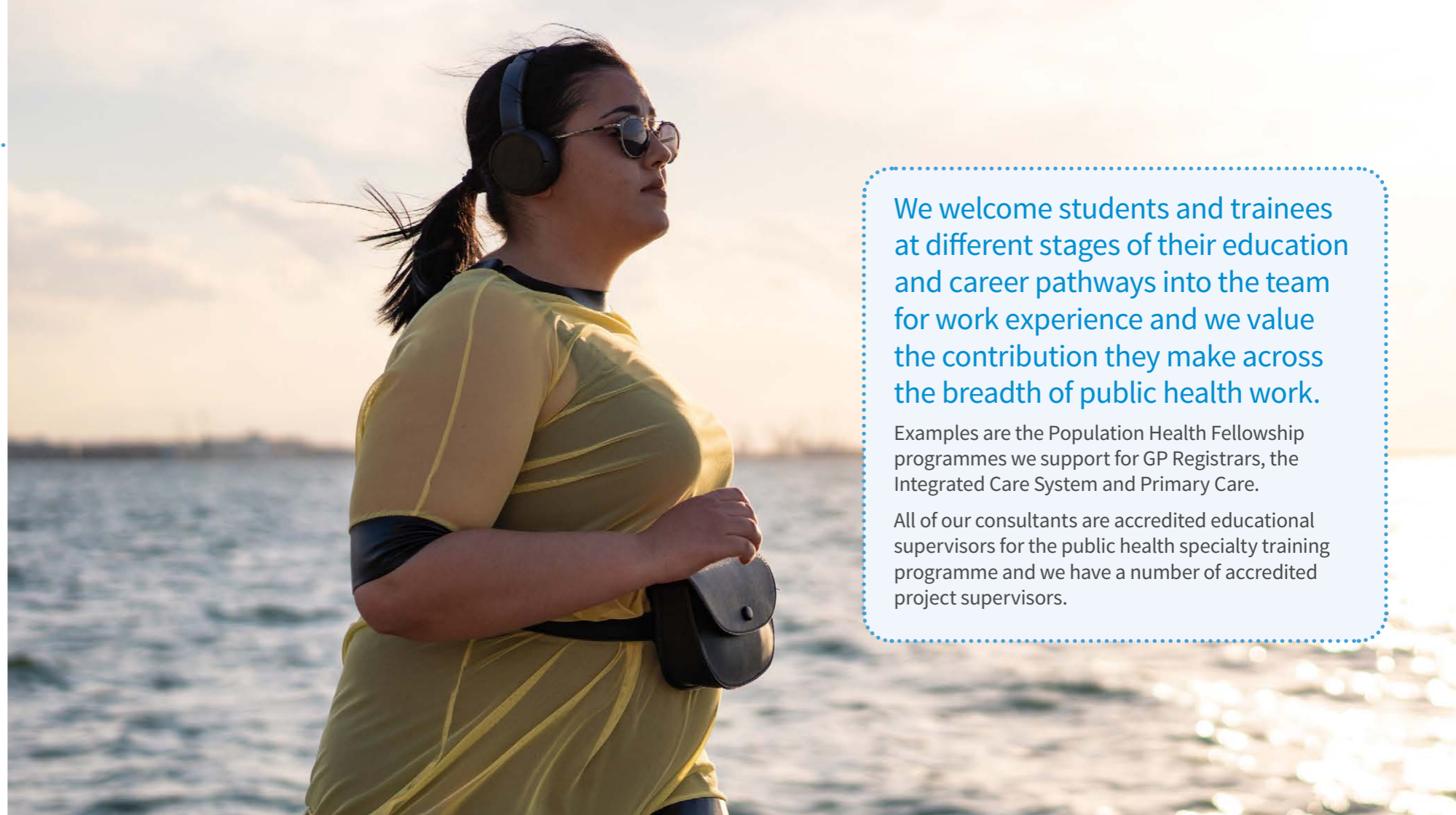
Our team

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly public health team is employed by Cornwall Council, but also provides support to the Council of the Isles of Scilly (both are unitary authorities).

We have a strong Health Promotion Service (Healthy Cornwall), which delivers a range of programmes to support the local priority health improvement functions. Registrars can take the opportunity to spend some time with Healthy Cornwall to gain some experience of working with the communities we are trying to reach first hand.

Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health ([DPH annual report](#)), is supported by an associate director in public health, four consultants and a team of principle, advanced and intermediate specialists, analysts and a business support team.

Public health works across four key functional areas – health care public health, health improvement, health protection and the wider determinants of health. These are reflected in the structure and are headed by the consultants. These functional areas are underpinned by intelligence, research and evaluation with the aim of reducing inequalities. The development of the workforce is also key to the success of the team, to ensure we have the necessary skills and qualifications, compliant with professional standards.



We welcome students and trainees at different stages of their education and career pathways into the team for work experience and we value the contribution they make across the breadth of public health work.

Examples are the Population Health Fellowship programmes we support for GP Registrars, the Integrated Care System and Primary Care.

All of our consultants are accredited educational supervisors for the public health specialty training programme and we have a number of accredited project supervisors.

Location

The core Public Health team work in a hybrid way with most of the team going to Cornwall Council offices one or two days a week. The main office is County Hall, Truro. This is a 10-minute walk from Truro mainline railway station. There are also good bus links including a park and ride service, and on-site parking is available. There are alternative hot desk arrangements available across the whole of the Local Authority estate. Healthy Cornwall work virtually and deliver programmes in settings across Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

The pandemic has increased the development and use of technology and has given rise to a successful blend of home working and face to face opportunities. Our estate is adapting to offer far more, touchdown, teamwork and meeting spaces, modernising the way we work, communicate and integrate our work plans.



Our vision

By working together to tackle health inequalities, everyone can enjoy good health and wellbeing, and grow, live, work and age well.

Our priorities

Health and wellbeing strategy 2020-30 outcomes

- Healthy safe communities
- Healthy Start
- Healthy bodies
- Healthy Minds

The Cornwall Plan 2020-2050

Healthy, safe, resilient communities – preventing ill health and building personal resilience, reducing health inequalities, helping create healthier workplaces, schools and communities, supporting people of all ages to develop positive mental health.

Brilliant place to be a child – best start in life for children.

Key Public Health business plan priorities

- ♥ Give everybody the best start in life
- ♥ Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- ♥ Create fair employment and good work for all
- ♥ Reduce poverty
- ♥ Create and develop healthy, sustainable places and communities
- ♥ Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

Partnership working

We work closely with other services of the council, the Integrated Care Board for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ([Integrated Care Strategy](#)), United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), the NHS England Local Area Team, local health service providers and other public and voluntary sector services.

Trainee work plans

Trainees agree their work plan with their educational supervisor, with whom they hold regular 1:1 meetings. They can also seek advice and support from the specialty tutor. Defined projects are identified for trainees, as well as ad hoc pieces of work to involve the trainees in the day-to-day work of the team. These are designed to meet the competency requirements of the trainee as they progress through the training programme. There will be increasing levels of responsibility and complexity towards later stages of training.

Trainees are encouraged to participate in internal and external sessions in preparation for Faculty exams. We can provide mock OSPHE practice within the team based on hypothetical and actual scenarios.

Training is a standing item on the Senior Leadership Team agenda and trainees are encouraged to influence our local training policy, to optimise the training experience that can be provided in Cornwall.

Examples of recent projects carried out by Specialty Registrars include:

- Digital inequalities (2020)
- PSHE for looked after children (2020)
- Leading on Covid response in Educational settings
- Public Health Annual Report 2021 – Health and wider impacts of Covid
- Covid vaccination pop-up clinic (2021)
- Incentivisation to increase vaccine uptake (2021)
- Harmful gambling wellbeing guide (2022)
- Review of the Children and young people continence pathway (2022)
- Equity audit of the Health Checks Programme (2022)
- Suicide prevention strategy and consultation (2022)
- Public Health prioritisation of future provision (2023)
- Evaluation of smoking cessation pilot with the Women Requiring Extra Nurturing (WREN) team (2023)

Other opportunities

- Training opportunities - Mental Health First Aid, MECC, ASIST
- Whole team events 3 times per year
- Links to universities for potential projects and teaching of medical/masters students
- Research opportunities with newly awarded [NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration](#) funding

“ Working in Cornwall is not only a beautiful setting, but there are lots of opportunities to get involved with interesting work. I have been pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the pioneering Food and Cornwall group, and to have had the chance to see some of the valuable work done by the health promotion service, which is particularly strong in Cornwall. The team have been very accommodating of the fact that I live in Exeter and have allowed me to work flexibly. ”



Key contacts

For further information, please contact phdesk@cornwall.gov.uk to arrange to have a chat with the Specialty Tutor for Public Health Training.

Wellbeing and Public Health, Public Health Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Cornwall Council, County Hall
Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall,
Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

e: customerservices@cornwall.gov.uk

t: 0300 1234 100

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