**London Borough of Merton**

**Key information**

* **Length:** 12 month placement
* **Team:** Director of Public Health: Dr Dagmar Zeuner; Educational Supervisor: Julia Groom. approx. 28 permanent team members (full time & part time), including two Consultants in Public Health; ahead of cross council COVID resilience and recovery; 1 GP VTS Registrar; student dieticians; LSHTM MPH student placements; and PH Apprentice; plus COVID team of 16 staff.
* **Location:** Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX; Morden Tube (Northern Line – 2 minutes walk, or Wimbledon District Line/Overground – 15 minutes cycle/10 minutes bus).

**Opportunities for Registrars in Merton**

Merton Public Health is a dynamic and friendly team which has been at the heart of the COVID response locally, but is also focussed on recovery, with strategic objectives in service transformation and integration, embedding health and wellbeing into council business, and strengthening commissioning and tackling inequalities.

Merton’s relative affluence masks areas of significant deprivation and differences in life expectancy, particularly between the east and the west of the borough. This is an exciting time to join the team, a placement in Merton offers many opportunities across the breadth of public health at local authority level. These include:

* COVID response; infection, prevention and control and resilience, and vaccination equity
* Health intelligence/population health management
* The development of innovative models of integrated community health, including healthy child services
* Health in all policies working across all departments
* Whole systems approach to diabetes and child healthy weight
* Health promotion and commissioning for adults and older people, including dementia
* Developing work linking climate change and health
* Focussed work with schools and young people

We have good links with NHS partners and are closely engaged in the development of Integrated Care System arrangements at local and South-West London levels, as well as Primary care and there will be opportunities for working across the health sector. Merton has a vibrant Community and Voluntary Sector, as well as active community champions and young inspectors and there will be opportunities for work with the Community and Voluntary sector and community engagement.

With a focus on pragmatism and ensuring all work contributes to delivery of real, lasting results, registrars can work on a number of different projects across various public health areas, tailored to meet learning outcomes. These include:

* gain health intelligence experience;
* produce key strategic documents and needs assessments;
* Participate in community engagement
* develop and support service developments and evaluations;
* engage in the delivery of priority programmes;
* gain experience in commissioning and procurement of services such as health visiting and school nursing; substance misuse and sexual health;
* gain project management skills;
* attend high-level strategic meetings;
* work in collaboration with colleagues across the council in areas such as Children schools and families, community and housing, and environment and regeneration.

Registrars have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to public health education, and attend leadership events and shadow senior figures, including Chief Executive, Directors and Elected Members in the local authority and senior leaders across the NHS. Senior members of the PH team also have pan-London roles, providing opportunities to understand the wider system. Merton offers a supportive environment that encourages and nurtures registrars to take on leadership roles and pursue areas of interest within its relatively small team and as part of the wider London training programme.

Merton is committed to offering a high-quality training environment. Trainees will be offered support, coaching and pro-active project supervision with a strong emphasis on clarity of role. The Local authority actively promoted mental health and wellbeing throughout the pandemic, including offering group wellbeing support sessions and mental health first aid training, which are on-going.

Merton will put in place arrangements for peer support and trainees will be encouraged to maintain links and networks with other trainees both within Merton and the wider London PH training programme. Merton has GP trainees on placement, a public health Apprentice and Student dieticians, as well as graduate trainees across the council, again offering the opportunity for peer support in a learning environment.

The PH team will be moving from remote working to a hybrid model, subject to any future COVID restrictions. Our friendly, dynamic team has experience of working remotely and can support trainees to manage any future challenges of remote working should the need arise.

For an informal discussion please contact:

Julia Groom

Consultant in Public Health

Educational Supervisor

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**Background Information:**

**About Merton**

Formed in 1965, the London Borough of Merton is an outer London borough to the south-west of the capital. It has a population of 200,000 residents living in 80,000 households, served by 7,500 businesses, and an area of approximately 14.7 square miles.

The borough’s five main town centres are:

* Wimbledon (taking in Wimbledon Village, the Broadway and South Wimbledon)
* Mitcham
* Morden
* Raynes Park
* Colliers Wood

Merton is home to the world-famous All England Lawn Tennis Club, where the Wimbledon Championships take place every year bringing an extra 500,000 people into the borough for the tennis extravaganza.

For more information: [Home | Merton Council](https://www.merton.gov.uk/)

This short video shows you more about Merton’s community:

[A Community Plan for Merton 2020-2026 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEKPMAkAbZE)



**Merton Story 2021**

The Merton Story is an annual high-level assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of Merton’s population. It is a snapshot of Merton as a place to live and work and a summary of the health and wellbeing of the population.

The last 18 months have seen challenges to population health that are unprecedented in recent decades and have brought inequalities into sharp focus. The COVID-19 pandemic has likely worsened the pre-existing health inequalities in Merton, both through its direct impact on illness and death, but also through its indirect impact on the wider determinants of health. The impact of COVID-19 on population health and inequalities is a key theme of this year’s Merton Story. Yet there have also been some positive impacts including social cohesion, greater engagement with the voluntary sector, and an increasing dialogue around tackling inequalities.

For more information see: [Merton Story | Merton Council](https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/jsna/the-merton-story)

**Merton Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Our **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024: A healthy place for healthy lives** has a vision of "working together to make Merton a heathy place by creating the physical and social conditions for all people to thrive, and to complement the provision of holistic health and care services". As well as the full Strategy there is a Strategy Summary which was produced with the input of our Young Inspectors.

For more information see: [Health and wellbeing strategies | Merton Council](https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/publichealth/strategies#titleCol10)