



Job description			
Job title	Principal Public Health Programme Officer		
Grade	P		
Directorate	Health & Social Care		
Service/team	Public Health		
Accountable to	Beth Milton/Annette Mercer		
Responsible for	Public Health Programme Officer(s)		
JE Reference	A5455	Date Reviewed	17 October 2025

Purpose of the Job

This exciting role focuses on health protection and health care public health. You will lead on public health programmes and activities to prevent infectious diseases and manage outbreaks, to support screening and vaccination programmes, to address environmental hazards, to support emergency planning, and to work with NHS partners across health care public health, including antimicrobial resistance, and sexual health. You will be a key member of the public health team, working independently with teams across the Council, and with external partners including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), health and social care providers, education settings and community organisations. You will be responsible for developing and leading health protection projects, programmes and initiatives, and will provide public health input into operational planning and strategic decision making. You will need to be flexible in responding to health protection issues across the borough, and will provide public health expertise across the local system.

Duties and Responsibilities

This is not a comprehensive list of all the tasks, which may be required of the post holder. It is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the work to be undertaken.

1. Working with senior public health colleagues, develop and implement local strategies and actions plans to prevent and manage infectious diseases, and to improve health care public health outcomes. This will involve building effective working relationships with other partners in the local health protection system, including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the commissioned community Infection Prevention and Control team, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB),



NHSE, the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) and primary care organisations. This will also include collaboration with the health protection leads from the other Cheshire and Merseyside local authority public health teams.

2. Ensure that decision-making and the development of strategies and action plans are based on the available evidence, current guidance and local data, including working with public health analysts to examine and interpret data relating to the incidence of disease, health needs, and uptake of screening and immunisation programmes.
3. Develop and implement health protection and health care public health projects and new initiatives, working across organisational boundaries and with community groups. This will include initiatives to increase the uptake of screening and immunisation programmes.
4. Work with the Director of Public Health, the Consultant in Public Health and other colleagues to lead the local authority's Public Health statutory response to outbreaks and other health protection incidents, including deputising for senior managers where appropriate. Participate in Outbreak and Incident Management Teams. Provide health protection advice to Council colleagues and to partners across the local health system to prevent, control and manage infectious diseases.
5. Work with Resilience colleagues to plan for and respond to emergency planning situations, including taking part in emergency planning exercises as required.
6. Facilitate and chair multi-agency groups, including task and finish groups linked with the Health Protection Forum and the Knowsley Flu and COVID-19 Group. Represent the Knowsley public health team at national and regional health protection meetings as required.
7. Work with the Council Communications team to develop communications which are tailored to the needs of residents, colleagues and external partners in relation to health protection matters, including in outbreak or other health protection emergency situations. This may include communicating information which is complex and contentious.
8. Develop and manage budgets for health protection initiatives and programmes, including making recommendations for improved budget utilisation. Ensure that relevant initiatives and programmes are delivered in accordance with approved budgets, reporting any variance and taking appropriate action.
9. Develop and deliver training on health protection, screening and immunisation for groups such as Early Years managers, head teachers, GP practice managers, and care home managers.



10. Produce reports and written briefings for elected members, senior colleagues and external partners. Take a lead role in applications for funding bids for health protection initiatives.
11. With support, handle challenging, contentious and sensitive issues, in relation to health protection, screening and immunisation programmes.

Knowsley Better Together – Staff Qualities



Health and Safety

- Use equipment as instructed and trained.
- Inform management of any health and safety issues which could place individuals at risk.

Data Protection and Information Security

- Implement and act in accordance with the Information Security Acceptable Use Policy, Data Protection Policy and GDPR.
- Protect the Council's information assets from unauthorised access, disclosure, modification, destruction or interference.
- Report actual or potential security incidents.