

Post Specification

Date	September 2025
PG Number	8778
Post Title	Health Protection Specialist
Job Family	Regulation and Technical
Job Family Role Profile	RT15
Final Grade	15

To be read in conjunction with the job family role profile

Service Area description
Public Health, Customer & Community Wellbeing Directorate
Purpose of this post
The purpose of this post is to support the Public Health Manager (Health Protection) to take forward the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to health protection, through the development, implementation and assurance of local health protection programmes for Cumberland Council, including community infection prevention and control, emergency planning, resilience and response (EPRR), and NHS immunisation and screening programmes.
Key job specific accountabilities
1. To develop and deliver bespoke IPC training packages to compliment the IPC training programmes for social care providers across Cumberland. 2. To develop and provide bespoke IPC audits & resource packages for social care providers across Cumberland. 3. To provide specialist IPC advice and support to key NHS and social care providers across Cumberland in order to protect health, reduce communicable disease outbreaks and Health Care Acquired Infections (HCAIs). 4. To provide IPC advice and support to incidents and outbreaks of communicable diseases across Cumberland (and in line with the arrangements contained within the Cumbria & Lancashire Outbreak Plan). 5. To develop and deliver infection prevention and control (IPC) quality improvement initiatives with social care providers across Cumberland and in collaboration with key NHS and social care partners. 6. To provide clinical services as and when required, e.g. testing & vaccinations to staff and during emergency situations. 7. To assist the Public Health Manager (Health Protection) with other health protection duties, as required. These include, emergency planning, resilience and response (EPRR) responsibilities, oversight & assurance of the NHS vaccination & screening programmes and asylum seeker, refugee & evacuee (ASRE) Public Health health screening work. 8. To attend and contribute to appropriate subgroups e.g., local IPC groups & committees, Cumbria Resilience Forum, Health Resilience Forum (HRP), Cumbria Health Protection Oversight Group (HPOG), NHS Vaccination and Screening Boards & meetings, and ASRE meetings and forums to maximise the health and well being of our population. 9. To contribute to the development of written reports relating to the performance and quality of the local immunisation and screening programmes to address health inequalities

10. Ensure effective collaboration with key partners e.g., local authorities, NHS, UKHSA, social care sector and voluntary sector to ensure the successful delivery of Cumberland Council's Health Protection responsibilities as contained within Cumberland Council's Health Protection Plan.

Please note annual targets will be discussed during the appraisal process

Key facts and figures of the post

Budget Responsibilities

- None.

Staff Management Responsibilities

- Deputise for the Health Protection Manager (as and when required) to support the IPC team.

Other

- This post is managerially located within the Public Health, Customer & Community Wellbeing Directorate.
- Confidential information including individual patient data, performance data and targets, surveillance data.
- Equipment – specialist equipment as required.

Essential Criteria - Qualifications, knowledge, experience and expertise

Qualifications:

- Graduate or post graduate qualifications in Public Health and/or Infection Prevention & Control
- Registered Nurse Level 1
- Current NMC registration
- Formal qualification in quality improvement
- Training qualification

Experience:

- Considerable experience (minimum of 3 years experience) of delivering IPC expertise to national standards in the NHS and/or social care sector
- Considerable experience (minimum of 2-3 years experience) of delivering IPC training and resource development to improve service delivery
- Significant experience (minimum of 1-2 years experience) of developing and delivering quality improvement initiatives to improve health outcomes in the NHS or social care sector
- Experience of developing and delivering public health initiatives
- Experience of planning for and running of emergency planning exercises & response e.g. extreme weather or respiratory related
- Experience of working in a political environment
- Experience of partnership working
- Experience in project & performance management.

Knowledge:

- Sound knowledge of national standards for IPC policy and practice relevant to the NHS and social care sector to improve health outcomes and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases
- Sound knowledge of quality improvement methodology and practice to improve health outcomes for residents in care settings
- Sound knowledge of EPRR policy
- Knowledge of NHS and local government legislation.

Skills and Aptitude:

- Influencing and negotiating skills
- Leadership, initiative and drive
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Conflict resolution skills

- Able to demonstrate a high level of enthusiasm and commitment
- Have a flexible approach, responsible for meeting deadlines and prioritise workload
- Able to work independently & as part of the Health Protection Team & Public Health Team.

Disclosure and Barring Service – DBS Checks

- This post requires a DBS check.
- The level of check required is:
 - o DBS Enhanced – no barred list

Job working circumstances

Emotional Demands	• Flexibility to meet the demands of the role • Unsocial hours when required in response to the demands of the role • May involve dealing with challenging situations.
Physical Demands	• Regular VDU work • Travel around Cumberland and Cumbria and at times regionally and nationally • Agile working applies, to work across Cumberland Council and NHS footprints.
Working Conditions	• 'On call' duties when required • Lone working • Office & working from home environment • Location visits • Occasional work with high risk customers who present with challenging behaviours.

Other Factors

- The post holder must be able to make own travel arrangements in order to meet service needs.
- The post holder will require a valid UK driving licence and access to a suitable vehicle.