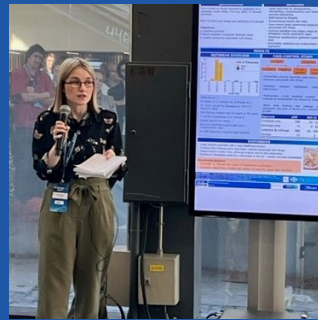


# UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme Prospectus 2024



An introduction to the two-year programme for prospective applicants

# Welcome to the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme

The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) is a full-time two-year fellowship programme, which provides training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology and aims to develop specialist field epidemiology skills.

Training is provided mainly through on-the-job service provision and supervised learning activities, but at least ten percent of the time will be dedicated to formally taught training courses. The programme currently covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

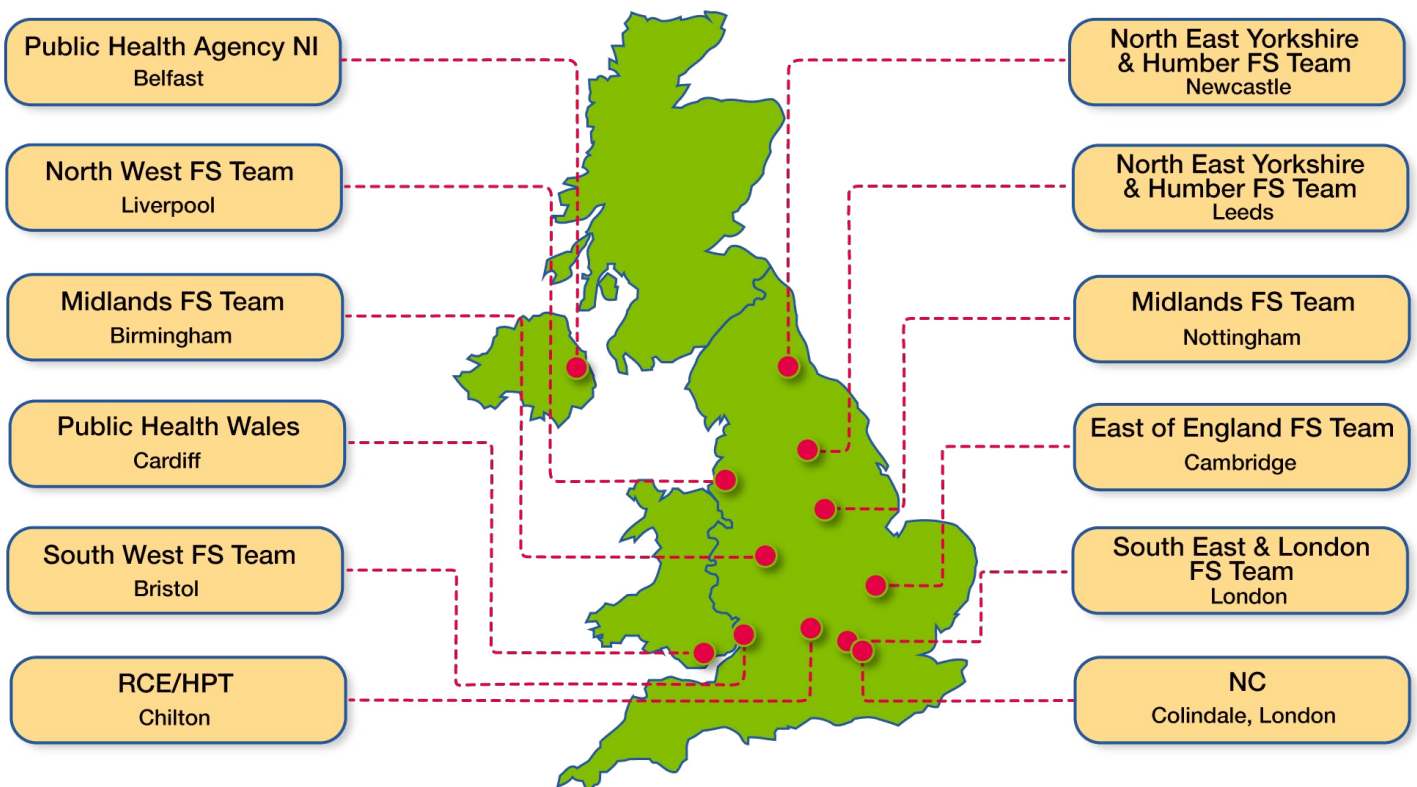
## Training sites

There are currently 12 sites which include national centres (NC) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Many sites are part of the UKHSA Field Service (FS); a nationally coordinated and managed service with specialist field epidemiology teams spread across the regions of England. All sites work closely with local Health Protection Teams (HPT) but the Chilton site offers the opportunity to embed within the HPT in a site which is split with the national lead epidemiology team for chemical and radiation hazards (RCE).







Conferences

Courses

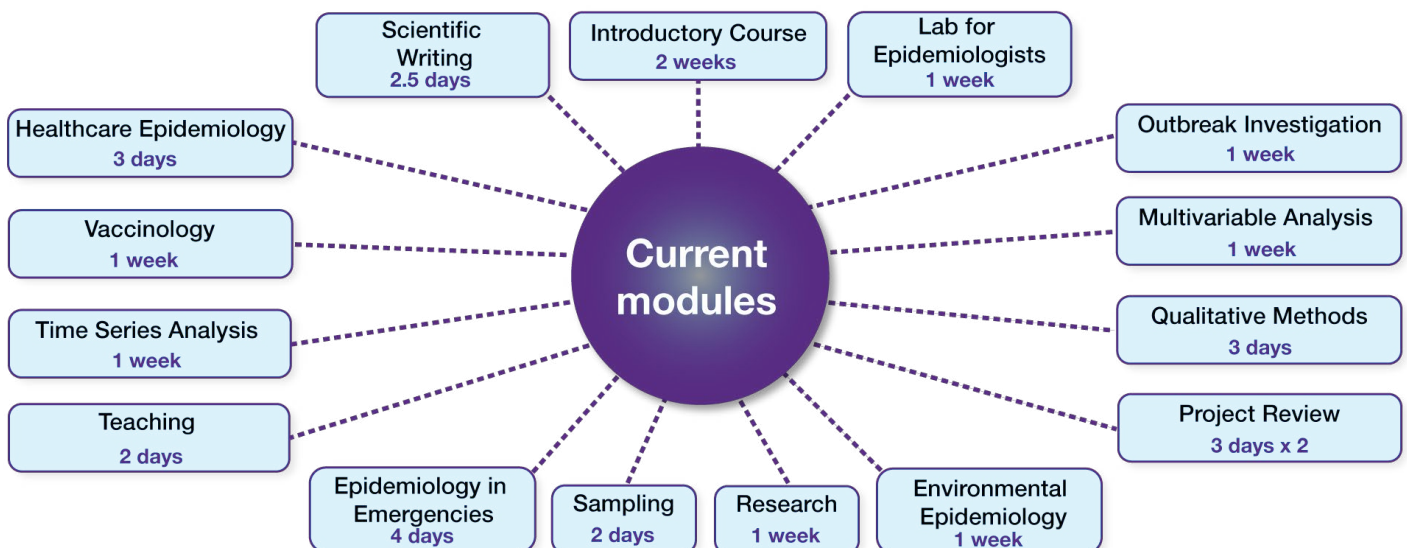


# Programme goals & graduation criteria

## UKFETP goals







-  To strengthen capacity and provision of public health epidemiology.
-  To develop a network of skilled field epidemiologists with a shared sense of purpose, working to common standards across the UK and Europe.
-  To raise the profile of field epidemiology and embed this into everyday health protection practice.
-  To support UKHSA's global public health workplan through provision of fellows and staff to support international response and capacity building.

## Modules



## Graduation criteria

These are the minimum criteria to pass the programme, but the fellowship has flexibility and time to support multiple projects in different areas, based on the needs of individual fellows.

-  **1 Outbreak investigations:** Conduct an analytical outbreak investigation
-  **2 Surveillance:** Develop, implement or evaluate a surveillance system
-  **3 Research:** Complete an applied epidemiology research project
-  **4 Training:** Conduct a learning needs assessment, develop, deliver and evaluate a teaching or training session
-  **5 Communication:** Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and deliver an oral presentation at a national or international conference
-  **6 Multivariable analysis:** Demonstrate the use of multivariable analysis techniques in at least one project



# Recruitment

## Recruitment timetable

### February:

Recruitment opens

### April/May:

Face to face interviews

### September:

Start of fellowship

## Where have previous fellows come from?

- UKHSA, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland
- UK Faculty of Public Health training programme
- Infection control / healthcare epidemiology roles in hospitals
- Other public health agencies / academia

Previous fellows have come from the following roles:

- Epidemiological scientists and analysts
- Public health / health protection nurses
- Veterinary epidemiologists
- Public health analysts in local authorities
- PhD graduates
- Public health registrars
- Clinical and public health microbiologists
- Infectious disease registrars

We welcome applications from anyone who meets the eligibility criteria (detailed below), regardless of their current employer or role.

## What do you need to be able to apply?

1. A completed Masters degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR, for equivalence, a minimum of four years supervised experience in public health, epidemiology or health protection with evidence of publications.
2. Demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify.
3. Be able to demonstrate how the UKFETP will be of benefit to your future career.



Cohort 2023 fellows working in groups in the introductory course



Cohort 2023 with the UKFETP teaching team



Fellows discussing a sequencing activity in the Lab for Epi module

# Why do UKFETP?

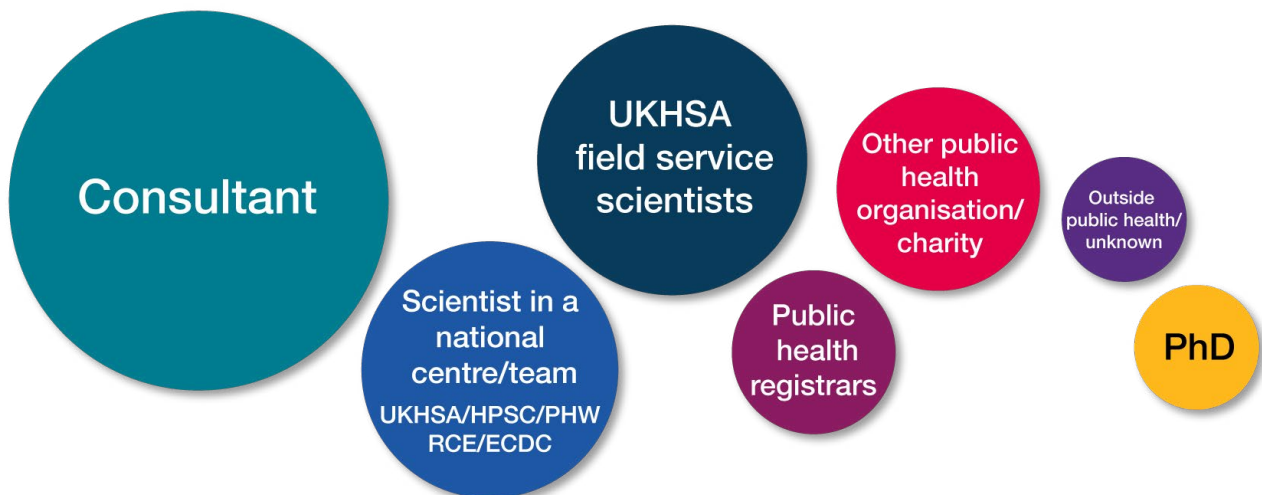
The two-year fellowship will enable development, focusing on your individual training needs through on-the-job supervision. You will experience significant personal and professional growth and development, but the programme does not offer automatic career progression at the end of the fellowship. By the end of your training you can expect to become an independent field epidemiology professional with the capability to apply your knowledge, skills and experience in the real world.

## What you can gain

- ✓ Knowledge, experience and confidence
- ✓ Networking skills and links to professionals with a common interest
- ✓ Time out for structured learning / opportunity to develop key skills
- ✓ New ways of looking at things
- ✓ Exposure to a variety of different project opportunities

## Where have fellows ended up?

Includes all fellows that have completed the programme, from 2011 onwards. All are current job roles in 2023.



## From 2011 to the end of 2023:

67 Graduated fellows  
17 Fellows in the programme

## Fellows' achievements

129 Peer-reviewed papers published  
135 Oral presentations at national and international scientific conferences  
134 Poster presentations at national and international scientific conferences  
51 International assignments

# Recent cohort highlights



Cohorts 2021 - 2023 with the wider UKFETP team at the graduation of Cohort 2021

## Recent examples of FETP fellow projects

### Outbreaks:

- Investigation of gastrointestinal illness outbreak at a wedding
- Investigation of Cryptosporidiosis outbreak at an agricultural college in Wales
- Investigation of a cluster of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales in North East of England
- Investigation of a tuberculosis cluster in the Midlands
- Investigation of Hepatitis of unknown aetiology in children nationally
- Investigation of an outbreak of multidrug-resistant monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium associated with chocolate products
- Investigation of an outbreak of Covid-19 at a teenage disco in a nightclub, Northern Ireland

### Surveillance:

- Evaluating the validity of the Covid-19 hospital admissions surveillance system, Wales
- Evaluation, standardisation and development of Legionella surveillance in the Midlands
- Sentinel pharmacy surveillance of acute respiratory illness
- Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Enhanced Syphilis Surveillance System (NI-ESSS)
- Health information in Czechia relating to the Ukraine refugee crisis
- Review of UK Emergency Medical Team data collection systems in the field
- Evaluation of the national surveillance for elevated blood lead levels in children

*Fellow projects continue overleaf*



# Recent cohort highlights

## Research:

- Investigation of the impact of PREP on the risk of condomless sex among male syphilis cases in Northern Ireland
- Investigation of lead exposure sources among children with elevated blood lead
- Investigation of facilitators and barriers to implementing successful exclusion among children with STEC
- Inequalities in the incidence of infectious disease in the North West of England
- Cross sectional survey on shingles invitational practices in General Practice

## Teaching:

- Identifying and addressing training needs among CDSC Wales employees
- Field Service South East and London learning needs assessment
- Delivering lectures on MPH courses – various
- Evaluation of microbiology training series in FS Midlands
- Expert workshop: Salmonella typhimurium associated with ruminant endemic livestock sources
- Understanding of SNP typing in gastrointestinal outbreaks within the field epidemiology/genomics/gastro teams in Public Health Wales
- Contributing to delivery of a global training programme for partners working on new variant assessment (NVAP)
- Design and delivery of a programme on introductory epidemiological methods for national response cells
- Undertaking a learning needs assessment for public health teams in the UK Overseas Territories
- Development of an e-learning package on Antimicrobial Resistance

## International missions:

- Covid-19 deployment - Papua New Guinea
- Health needs assessment for Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia
- Excess mortality due to COVID-19 in the Gambia
- Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness among healthcare workers in Azerbaijan
- Introduction to epidemiology course - Azerbaijan Medical University
- Evaluation of R training for Africa CDC
- Cholera outbreak, Kenya
- UK Emergency Medical Team's deployment to Malawi



C21 fellow Patrick McAleavey at graduation, being presented with his certificate from UKHSA Chief Executive Jenny Harries OBE



C21 fellow Mona Dave presenting her poster in Taiwan



C21 fellow Amoolya Vusirikala undertook a deployment to Malawi as part of the UK Emergency Medical Team

# Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), Public Health Wales

CDSC is the National Surveillance Centre for Wales. There are specialty leads for each disease subject area including gastrointestinal infections, zoonoses, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. There is a strong interest in healthcare associated infection (HCAI) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within the team and extensive surveillance work ongoing. Wales has a team of healthcare epidemiologists based in health boards, enabling participation in hospital surveillance and field investigations. In 2021 a specialty group for statistics, data science and genomics was added, providing expert statistical advice for fellows and access to data science and genomics expertise.

**Location of office:** Capital Quarter in Cardiff, Wales – 10 minutes from Cardiff Central Station

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Dr Chris Williams: christopher.williams25@wales.nhs.uk

**Academic links:** Links to Swansea University, including access to research based on the data held in the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank. University teaching on the Masters in Public Health (MPH) course at Cardiff University and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

## Key health protection challenges

- Integrated surveillance of acute respiratory infections
- Elimination of blood-borne viruses and TB
- Restarting and reforming surveillance using the lessons from COVID-19, including data linkage for infection outcomes, and wider determinants of health
- Environmental public health surveillance and the impacts of climate change
- Improving detection of outbreaks and emerging threats

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Outbreak of hepatitis of unknown aetiology (part of a national investigation)
- Hospital ward risk factors for COVID-19 outbreaks
- Long-term sequelae of E. coli O157 infection
- Implementing sentinel surveillance for acute respiratory infections
- BOLD project on linked data across government departments
- Data science methods for identifying care home cases and incidents
- Developing serosurveillance in blood donors and children

## Additional information

CDSC Wales has been an EPIET training site since 1996, hosting eight EU-track and two MS-track fellows, and an FETP site since 2019. CDSC are co-located with the Cardiff and Vale Health Protection Team, as well as the environmental epidemiology and health and justice teams and the Pathogen Genomics Unit in Capital Quarter.

CDSC is close to University Hospital of Wales, where the Cardiff Public Health Microbiology Laboratory is situated, as well as the UK Anaerobe Reference Unit, the Specialist Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Unit, the Mycology Regional Reference Unit, the Wales Centre for Mycobacteria and the Wales Specialist Virology Centre.

CDSC have good links to Welsh government as well as to laboratory and communications staff, who offer placements to trainees. There is a friendly group of registrars and regular training and development sessions such as hot case debriefs and there are good opportunities for fellows to work on large research projects, such as the “Be on the TEAM” meningitis B study.



# East of England Field Service Team

## Key topic areas

HCAI & AMR, TB, Group A Streptococcus, GI, environmental, sexual health, emerging infections and zoonoses.

**Location of office:** Forvie Site, Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University), Addenbrookes hospital site, Cambridge (FS)

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Ellen Heinsbroek: [ellen.heinsbroek@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.heinsbroek@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**Academic links:** Cambridge University

East of England has a population of approximately 6.4 million and covers a large geographical area. The population comprises both urban and rural populations with some of the most deprived and some of the most affluent areas of the country.

## Key health protection challenges

- Large number of Group A Streptococcus clusters in different local authorities and settings.
- TB outbreaks in various settings including a supermarket distribution setting and a homeless hostel. Screening events are supported by the Health Protection Team and Field Service Team.
- A large number of Avian Influenza outbreaks in the region, mainly linked to poultry farming

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Development of an extensive surveillance programme together with the Health Protection Team
- Development of a Power BI dashboard to detect and investigate clusters of Group A Streptococcus
- Investigation of a local Salmonella Enteritidis restaurant outbreak linked to a widespread international cluster. [Published here](#)
- Investigation of the first UK care home outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 BA.2.86. [Published here](#)
- Analysis to measure the effectiveness of interventions in a large, prolonged norovirus outbreak in an all-inclusive resort. [Presented here](#)
- Retrospective cohort study of a hospital-acquired outbreak of Mycobacterium abscessus linked to the hospital's water system. [Presented here](#)

## Additional information

The FS team is co-located with (part of) the East of England Health Protection Team and Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University) on the Addenbrookes Hospital site, which also includes the UKHSA regional laboratory. The East of England Health Protection Team and FS team work closely together, with several joint meetings and projects set up between them.

The FS team has extensive experience in the rapid set up of Power BI dashboards to support outbreak and cluster investigations with interactive visualisations. There is also good working knowledge of SQL, STATA and R within the team.

# Midlands Field Service Team (Nottingham & Birmingham)

**Key topic areas:** Data science, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, avian and other zoonotic influenzas, Legionellosis, sexual health, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis

**Research interests:** Healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, avian and other zoonotic influenzas, Legionellosis.

**Location of office:** Seaton House, City Link, Nottingham & 23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham

**Primary Field Supervisors:** Richard Puleston (Nottingham): richard.puleston@ukhsa.gov.uk & John Mair Jenkins (Birmingham): john.mairjenkins@ukhsa.gov.uk

**Academic links:** University of Nottingham

## Key health protection challenges

- All hazards response to incidents in a population of >10 million people
- High rates of Tuberculosis and STIs
- Migrant health
- HCAI outbreaks
- High levels of deprivation and homelessness in urban centres and some rural areas
- Densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with varying infectious disease epidemiology
- Wide ethnic diversity with range of health protection challenges alongside an aging population

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Is seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness reduced in people receiving repeat vaccinations? A retrospective cohort study using the Clinical Practice Research Database
- Prospective cohort study of Pneumocystis jirovecii colonisation in renal transplant recipients
- Phylogenetic analysis of Salmonella Typhimurium DT104 human and animal isolates in the UK
- Evaluation of the national surveillance system in Myanmar
- Vaccination coverage survey following the mass vaccination campaigns for measles, cholera and polio in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- Evaluation of large-scale antibody testing programme in England (COVID-19)
- Legionella outbreak investigation
- iGAS epidemiology in Stoke on Trent
- Lead exposure in children in England
- Learning needs assessment – research and development
- Evaluation of introduction to microbiology learning series
- Developing serological assays for avian influenza
- Investigating the outcomes of a new sequence type of Meticillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus and polio in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- Evaluation of large-scale antibody testing programme in England (COVID-19) (team)

## Additional information

The Midlands Field Service Team was formed during COVID-19 from the existing East and West Midlands teams. You will join a diverse team of around 25 people and train with other FETP fellows, specialist registrars and clinical scientists on placement with us. We are a single training site with office locations in Birmingham and Nottingham. This offers flexibility in training base and enables close working and collaboration with two, collocated Health Protection Teams. The Birmingham office is also home to the UKHSA real-time syndromic surveillance team which also offers the opportunity for collaboration.

# Health Protection Directorate Service, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland

**Key topic areas:** The Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland (NI), is a National Centre and therefore is involved in: surveillance of communicable disease at the local and regional levels, provision of support to primary and secondary healthcare professionals around health protection issues, field investigation of communicable disease outbreaks in the community and healthcare settings, multi-professional training in communicable disease epidemiology and audit of communicable disease control, provision of support to the Department of Health on communicable disease policy and implementation and monitoring of vaccination programmes.

**Research interests:** Factors influencing vaccine uptake and effectiveness; application of pathogen genomics for public health risk-assessment and risk management; factors influencing antimicrobial prescribing.

**Location of office:** Linenhall Street, Belfast

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Declan Bradley: declan.bradley@hscni.net

**Academic links:** Queens University of Belfast

## Key health protection challenges

- Northern Ireland has high antibiotic prescribing compared to other parts of the UK
- Childhood vaccine uptake has fallen in recent years
- Adoption of reproducible analytical pipelines and modern, robust approaches to data analysis

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Piloting enhanced surveillance of risk factors for HIV among PWIDs in Belfast
- Evaluation of the SARS-CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) surveillance system in NI
- Analysis of E. coli cases in NI, 2015-August 2021
- Outbreak of COVID-19 in a meat processing factory, NI July-August 2020
- Epidemiological investigation on hospitalised infants with Staphylococcus capitis in England, 2015-2021
- Outbreak of COVID-19 in a secondary school in NI
- Investigation of behavioural risk factors associated with self-reported Hepatitis C infection among people who experience homelessness and inject drugs (PWID) in NI: comparison between 2017 and 2021
- Estimating the impact of non-pharmaceutical COVID-19 public health interventions on mumps and Bordetella pertussis activity in NI: a retrospective interrupted time-series analysis
- Investigation of factors influencing influenza vaccine uptake in 2022/23
- Investigation of factors influencing non-uptake of the spring COVID-19 booster in 2023 campaign among people who got the vaccine in autumn 2022 campaign
- Investigation of risk factors for surgical site infection following caesarean section, 2018-2022.
- Rapid investigation of Mycoplasma pneumoniae epidemiology in NI, 2023

## Additional information

We have a small, friendly team of around 30 surveillance and epidemiology scientists who provide infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology for Northern Ireland. We are focusing on developing our team's confidence, knowledge and skills with a comprehensive CPD programme, redesigning our processes (tracking our work through Jira and sharing code through Git), and building resilience. We use R, Microsoft Azure, Shiny dashboards and RMarkdown reports and Microsoft PowerBI. The team is overseen by a deputy director of public health, two lead epidemiologists and a programme manager. We work closely with the health protection consultants and nurses who deliver the response service and who lead on strategic work to prevent harm from all hazards.



# Clinical & Public Health Group, Colindale

## Key topic areas, national teams:

Tuberculosis, acute respiratory, emerging /zoonotic infections, travel health, gastrointestinal infections, immunisation, seasonal influenza, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, sepsis, sexual transmitted infections, HIV and blood-borne viruses.

**Location of office:** Colindale, London (accessible via Northern Line)

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Gavin Dabrera: gavin.dabrera@ukhsa.gov.uk

**Academic links:** Departments are academically linked to a range of universities through the Health Protection Research Units: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (immunisation HPRU), Bristol University (evaluation of interventions), University College London (blood borne and sexually transmitted infection), Imperial College (respiratory, HCAI/AMR), Liverpool University (emerging and zoonotic infections, gastrointestinal infections), Oxford University (HCAI/AMR)

## Key health protection challenges

- Responding to national incidents
- Leadership for national epidemiology – developing new and improving existing systems
- International health communications
- Authoring and/or updating national guidance and policy

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow

### Surveillance:

- Surveillance of Psittacosis in England
- Lyme disease enhanced surveillance protocol - a pilot study to strengthen the surveillance of laboratory-confirmed cases of Lyme disease
- Pertussis infection in pre-school age children in England: Data linkage / capture-recapture
- Evaluation of national Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) surveillance

### Research:

- Risk factors associated with enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) infection: a case-control study
- Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 among blood donors in England

### Outbreak:

- Multi-drug resistant *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in asylum seekers in England
- National STEC outbreak
- National incident of paediatric hepatitis of unknown aetiology
- National Hepatitis A outbreak in England and Wales linked to medjool dates

### Teaching:

- Global health teaching
- Principles of surveillance – UKHSA/NIS introduction course

## Additional information

- Co-located with North West London Health Protection Team
- Involvement in national incidents e.g. Diphtheria in asylum seekers, Monkeypox 2022
- Additional duties: contributing to a daytime duty on-call rota – responding to HPT queries

# North East & Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team (North East)

## Key topic areas

### Field Service topic leads:

Data science & informatics, healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance, Hepatitis & blood safety, HIV & sexually-transmitted infections, global health, Tuberculosis.

### Research interests:

Bloodborne viruses, data science, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare-associated infections, statistical modelling, vaccine preventable diseases.

**Location of office:** Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Petra Manley: [petra.manley@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:petra.manley@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**Academic links:** Newcastle University, Teeside University, University of Sheffield, University of York, University of Leeds, Health Protection Research Unit in Modelling and Health Economics

## Key health protection challenges

- Some of the highest rates of healthcare-associated infections, sexually transmitted infections and mumps nationally
- Large number of prisons
- Large differences in population density and high deprivation

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gastrointestinal infection trends in England, February to July 2020
- Falkland Islands COVID-19 epidemiological investigation
- Understanding the epidemiology of E. coli bloodstream infections in the North of England
- Investigation into a recurring cluster of MRSA colonisations in a special care baby unit, April 2016 to November 2019
- Evaluation of the EpiNorth3 surveillance system in North East England, January 2013 to December 2017

## Additional information

Co-located and close working relationship with the Health Protection Team, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks and incidents. UKHSA Consultant in public health infection based in the office.

The North East has a dedicated surveillance system, EpiNorth3, which has been running for many years and collates details on cases of infectious disease, testing methods, exposures, etc. This system has a wealth of information that many FETP projects have been based on.

# North East & Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team (Yorkshire and Humber)

## Key topic areas

### Field Service topic leads:

Data science & informatics, healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance, Hepatitis & blood safety, HIV & sexually-transmitted infections, global health, Tuberculosis.

### Research interests:

Bloodborne viruses, data science, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare-associated infections, statistical modelling, vaccine preventable diseases.

**Location of office:** Blenheim House, Leeds

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Gareth Hughes: [gareth.hughes@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.hughes@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**Academic links:** University of Sheffield, University of York, University of Leeds, Health Protection Research Unit in Modelling and Health Economics, Newcastle University, Teeside University

## Key health protection challenges

- Large counties with some urban areas but significant rural areas with large farming communities
- Area includes three international airports, two major seaports and a number of military bases

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow

- Rapid evaluation of the effectiveness of public health information materials on 2019-nCoV provided to passengers arriving at UK airports from mainland China
- Understanding the increasing incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease and decreasing IPD related mortality in the North East of England, 2006 to 2018
- Investigation of the risk factors for COVID-19 transmission using NHS Test and Trace data
- Assessing the impact of the Kaiser Permanente calculator on detection of neonatal sepsis
- Get Tested LeEDs: Estimating bloodborne virus prevalence and associated risk factors through routine opt-out emergency department testing

## Additional information

Co-located with the Health Protection Team. Close working relationship with the health protection team staff, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks. Office located in Leeds city centre.



# North West Field Service Team

## Key topic areas

**Field Service topic leads:** Data science, streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, gastrointestinal infections.

**Research interests:** Gastrointestinal infections, emerging and zoonotic infections, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine preventable diseases, Group A streptococcal infections, global health.

**Location of office:** Cunard Building, Liverpool

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Valerie Decraene: [valerie.decraene@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:valerie.decraene@ukhsa.gov.uk)

**Academic links:** University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moore University

Via Health Protection Research Units: Warwick University, Oxford University, University of East Anglia

## Key health protection challenges

- Some of the highest rates of TB, STIs (including hepatitis) in the country
- High levels of deprivation and health inequalities
- Densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with high levels of agricultural activity
- Ongoing major issue with carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales at a number of north west hospitals
- Large number of COMA sites and huge legacy of contaminated land resulting from the chemical industry, particularly in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside, and two nuclear reprocessing facilities within our area within the region

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Inequalities in the incidence of infectious diseases in North West England: a population-based study
- Implementation of targeted enhanced surveillance for berry-related hepatitis infections in England
- Investigation into two national nosocomial Burkholderia cepacia complex outbreaks, UK, 2021
- Risk of symptomatic COVID-19 due to aircraft transmission: a retrospective cohort study of contact-traced flights during England's containment phase
- Evaluation of Salmonella surveillance questionnaire response combined with SMS messaging in Greater Manchester, UK
- Risk factors for community-onset Escherichia coli bacteraemia in North West England: a case-control study
- Increased risk for invasive Group A Streptococcus disease for household contacts of Scarlet Fever cases, England, 2011 to 2016
- Application of a new multi-locus variable number tandem repeat analysis (MLVA) scheme for the seasonal investigation of Cryptosporidium parvum cases in Wales and northwest England, spring 2022.
- Using meningococcal vaccine to reduce the burden of gonococcal infections: a mathematical modelling study.

## Additional information

Co-located with Cheshire and Merseyside Health Protection Team.

# South East & London Field Service

## Key topic areas

Vaccine preventable disease, GI, Hepatitis, travel and migrant health, influenza and other respiratory viruses, Group A Strep, TB.

**Location of office:** 10 S. Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5EA

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Sooria Balasegaram: sooria.balasegaram@ukhsa.gov.uk

**Academic links:** LSHTM, Imperial, UCL, HPRUs

## Key health protection challenges

South East and London Field Service team is the busiest and largest FS team, covering an area comprising almost a third of the population of England, 16.5 million. Work is varied covering a metropolis, several cities and rural parts with extremes of deprivation and affluence including a highly mobile, multi-ethnic population with many prisons, care homes, hospitals, major UK airports and commercial seaports.

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow

- Estimating STEC clearance times in young children and risk of transmission in childcare settings
- Outbreak of multidrug-resistant monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium associated with chocolate products - analytical, case control study
- Diphtheria seroprevalence study
- A guide for evaluation of surveillance outputs by the Field Service
- Cases of COVID-19 presenting to St Thomas' Hospital Emergency Department, London

## Publications:

1. Epidemiology of early Monkeypox virus transmission in sexual networks of gay and bisexual men, England, 2022
2. Increasingly limited options for the treatment of enteric fever in travellers returning to England, 2014 to 2019: a cross-sectional analytical study
3. Clinical frailty as a key characteristic of the patient population of the NHS Nightingale North West COVID-19
4. British infection association guidelines for the diagnosis and management of enteric fever in England
5. Levels and genotypes of Salmonella and levels of Escherichia coli in frozen ready-to-cook chicken and turkey products in England tested in 2020 in relation to an outbreak of S. Enteritidis

## Additional information

We are co-located with the London Health Protection Teams. We support seven local health protection units in London and SE and also are involved in joint projects with academia, Colindale, RCE.

# South West Field Service Team

## Key topic areas

**Field Service topic leads:** National incident response, environmental epidemiology, influenza and other respiratory viruses, public health microbiology (links to Porton Down) and streptococcal and staphylococcal infections.

**Research interests:** Health protection research studies and evaluations. Specific examples of research topics include: blood-borne viruses, hospital-acquired infections, respiratory infections, emergency preparedness and response, flooding, contact tracing, developing tools and methodologies for field epidemiology.

**Location of office:** 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Matt Edmunds: matt.edmunds@ukhsa.gov.uk

**Academic links:** University of Bristol, University of West of England. We are part of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Behavioural Science and Evaluation at the University of Bristol and the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emergency Preparedness and Response.

## Key health protection challenges

- Large area with rural and urban regions
- Zoonosis are an important public health problem
- Areas of deprivation with a high incidence of TB and sexually transmitted infections
- There are a number of prisons in the South West region

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow

- Investigation of a cluster of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriales (CPE) NDM-1 *Klebsiella pneumoniae* among patients attending a South West hospital ward, 2020-2022
- The impact of COVID-19 public health measures on detection of respiratory syncytial virus in children in England, 2020 to 2021
- COVID-19 child mortality surveillance in England: National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) data linkage with SARS-CoV-2 virology results
- First confirmed domestic transmission of *Brucella canis* between dogs in the UK: outbreak investigation and public health risk assessment
- Exposures associated with tuberculosis presentation and healthcare delays in South West England, 2015-2020

## Additional information

We are co-located with members of the South West Health Protection Team. We work closely with the Bristol Public Health Laboratory, NHS organisations and Local Authorities across the South West region. We teach and facilitate on the infectious disease epidemiology and control unit across the Master of Public Health and Epidemiology degree programmes at the University of Bristol. The team includes the national lead for the Field Service Consultants in Public Health Infection.



# Thames Valley Health Protection Team (TVHPT) and Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards team (RCE)

**Environmental Epidemiology Team, RCE:** National and international projects exploring the effect of environmental exposures on health and developing national environmental public health surveillance e.g. lead exposure in children surveillance, health effects of water fluoridation, burden of disease of carbon monoxide poisoning, chemicals in private water supplies, biomonitoring studies, health registers, climate change impacts on health.

**TVHPT:** COVID-19, vaccine preventable diseases, hospital-acquired infections, TB, influenza, invasive group A streptococcus, gastro-intestinal infections, zoonoses, health inequalities, migrant health.

**Location of office:** Chilton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire

**Primary Field Supervisor:** Helen Crabbe: helen.crabbe@ukhsa.gov.uk

**Academic links:** University of Oxford and HPRU links with Imperial College, LSHTM, UCL, University of Leicester, Exeter University and other universities depending upon the project.

## Key health protection challenges

The Chilton site is the headquarters of RCE and the national focal point for advice and guidance for environmental public health including climate change, extreme events, toxicology, radiation and chemicals. Developing surveillance of such risks and the novel use of IT to provide access to data and intelligence is one of the key areas for environmental epidemiology. Thames Valley has a population of 2.1M and is part of UKHSA South East (8.9M people). Thames Valley is a mixture of rural and urban areas with varying degrees of deprivation making it a busy HPT team. The past two years have seen significant importation of diphtheria in persons arriving via irregular migration routes, and the resurgence of TB, measles, influenza, and group A streptococcal infections following the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the continued threat of avian influenza.

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow and wider team

- Biomonitoring and environmental sampling in Georgia to establish sources of exposure of lead in children
- Evaluation of UKHSA lead exposure in children surveillance system
- Identifying housing characteristics and other risk factors for the transmission of Covid-19
- Investigation of a *Cryptosporidium* outbreak at a petting farm
- Investigation of a national *Cryptosporidium* exceedance
- A pooled analysis of Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness using data from three Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness studies in eastern Europe
- A cohort study to investigate possible contamination of product lines of Bioprosthetic heart valves with *Mycobacterium chelonae*
- Investigating effects of weather on UK STEC outbreaks
- Indoor air quality: Characterizing exposures and associated health effects
- Principles of outbreak investigation - Teaching for SpRs
- Developing case studies for teaching for environmental epidemiology as part of the International Health Regulations capacity building projects with Global Health

## Additional information

**Shared site:** You will split your time between the Environmental Epidemiology team in RCE and TVHPT, whilst also maintaining close links with London and South East Field Service. You will have access to outbreaks and other projects across the South East as well as national and international projects.

# Thames Valley Health Protection Team (TVHPT)

## Key topic areas

Vaccine preventable diseases, TB, influenza, invasive group A streptococcus, gastro-intestinal infections, zoonoses, health inequalities, migrant health; outbreak investigation and control.

**Location of office:** Chilton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire and Canary Wharf, London

**Primary Field Supervisor:** David Roberts: david.j.roberts@ukhsa.gov.uk

## Key health protection challenges

Thames Valley has a population of 2.1M and is part of UKHSA South East (8.9M people). Thames Valley is a mixture of rural and urban areas with varying degrees of deprivation making it a busy HPT team. The past two years have seen a significant importation of diphtheria in persons arriving via irregular migration routes, and the resurgence of TB, measles, influenza, and group A streptococcal infections following the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the continued threat of avian influenza. We also have established links with the environmental epidemiology team within the Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards Directorate, who are experienced in supervising FETP projects (see the STEC example below).

## Recent projects conducted by the fellow and wider team

- Investigation of a Cryptosporidium outbreak at a petting farm
- Investigation of a national Cryptosporidium exceedance
- A pooled analysis of Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness using data from three Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness studies in eastern Europe
- A cohort study to investigate possible contamination of product lines of Bioprosthetic heart valves with Mycobacterium chelonae
- Investigating the effects of weather on UK STEC outbreaks
- Principles of outbreak investigation - Teaching for SpRs

## Additional information

**Shared site:** This site is split across the HPT and the South East and London Field Service Team. You will split your time between the HPT and the FS team with the main base being London with a day a week with the HPT in Thames Valley. You will have access to outbreaks and other projects across the South East as well as national and international projects.

# 67 graduated fellows





# Frequently asked questions

## General programme queries

### **Can I do the programme part time?**

Unfortunately not at the moment. The programme is designed as a full-time, two-year programme.

### **Do I need to be currently employed by UKHSA to apply for this position?**

Anyone eligible to work in the UK can apply to the programme. It is a fixed term contract for two years or an internal transfer/secondment.

### **Who is the UKFETP suitable for?**

The UKFETP is suitable for those wishing to apply for Senior Executive Officer of Agenda for Change Band 7 (SEO/AfC Band 7) and those currently on Specialty Registrar (StR) grades and who want to develop their field epidemiology skills.

### **Is the salary/grade for UKFETP flexible?**

Unfortunately not, we are bound by our budget. If you were successful, we would only be able to offer an SEO/AfC Band 7 salary or equivalent StR grade.

### **What is the average success rate for getting onto the programme?**

There are usually between 150 – 250 applications annually, resulting in a success rate of 4-5% depending on the number of roles available each year.

### **How is the course set up?**

The information you require is in the Job Purpose/Summary in the advert as well as the Job Description under Main Training Objectives and Responsibilities.

### **How many overnight stays are expected in the programme?**

All modules are scheduled to be face to face and residential. Details of modules and their length are available on page 3 of this prospectus. Modules are also rotated around the UK. Attendance at modules is mandatory. Fellows are also expected to attend the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) Conference each year which is held in a European city and therefore requires overseas travel.

### **Can I undertake this role virtually?**

All teaching is planned as face to face and attendance is mandatory for completion of the programme. Successful fellows are expected to be physically present within their team at the appointed training site. UKHSA policy promotes a 60:40 balance (three days in office and two days at home), but there is some flexibility. Fellows can work full-time from their office base or a minimum of two days a week where circumstances necessitate.

*FAQs continue overleaf*

# Frequently asked questions

## Eligibility queries

### **What are the eligibility criteria for applying for UKFETP?**

Essential criteria are listed in the Person Specification in the advert. You must already have completed a Master's degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR a minimum of four years supervised experience in Public Health, Epidemiology or Health Protection at the time of application, with evidence of publication. Demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application (time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify). Additionally, you should be able to demonstrate how the UKFETP will be of benefit to your future career.

### **Is there a minimum requirement for work experience in order to apply?**

Yes, we expect demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify.

### **I am completing my Master's this year, am I eligible to apply?**

You must have achieved your Master's degree at the point of application to be eligible to apply. If you have a PhD, it doesn't matter that your Master's is still ongoing. Otherwise, we would encourage you to consider applying next year.

### **If my Master's is not in public health what other Master's programme would be acceptable?**

Applications are considered on an individual basis. As a guide, other Master's with a public health or epidemiology content will be considered.

### **Can I apply to UKFETP as an infectious diseases registrar?**

Provided you meet the additional criteria in the person specification in the advert, you should be fine to apply as an StR as long as you have deanery support.

### **Is it essential to have both a Master's and have passed parts A and B of the Faculty of Public Health examinations?**

If you are a registrar you must have passed parts A and B of the FPH examinations as well as having completed a relevant Master's.

## Eligibility for non-UK citizens queries

### **Is the programme open to non-UK citizens?**

The UKFETP is open to anyone who is eligible to work in the UK.

### **I require Tier 2 sponsorship, can UKFETP offer this?**

No, regrettably, the UKFETP is not able to offer this.

Further information regarding the eligibility of candidates to work in the UK can be found in the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#).

# Frequently asked questions

## **I would have the right to work in the UK at the time of applying. Would it be possible to obtain a longer full-time visa once in the programme?**

Please refer to the [nationality rules](#) for more information regarding eligibility.

## **Application queries**

### **How could I improve my chances of a successful application?**

We advise all applicants to demonstrate how they match the essential and desirable criteria of the post as detailed in the Person Specification. Providing specific examples of experience is important and outlining what you hope to gain/enthusiasm for field epidemiology is also key

### **Who do I use as references in my application?**

Usually it is your last three employers. However, you can give whomever you feel would be appropriate, although one must be your last employer.

## **Career development queries**

### **How can I develop my skills to enable me to apply to the programme in the future?**

If you read the Prospectus, Job Description and Person Specification you will get a good sense of what the role of the field epidemiologist is. It is a role which includes rapid response – to outbreak investigations or major incidents, and signals from surveillance systems. The post at present mainly deals with health protection topics. You could learn more from talking with your local health protection and field epidemiology team.

### **Are there any training schemes which would support me through a postgraduate qualification in public health/epidemiology?**

Higher specialist training in public health (check the [Faculty of Public Health website](#) for more information) is the only training scheme that would incorporate a Master's degree to our knowledge.

### **How can I gain more experience in epidemiology?**

In order to gain experience in epidemiology, look out for jobs in UKHSA, Public Health Wales or the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland. Relevant experience may also be gained in academia or public health organisations. You could also set up alerts for jobs in NHS Jobs and Health Jobs UK using terms such as “information officer”, “epidemiological scientist”, or “epidemiology”.

# About the UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation health secure.

[UKHSA](#) is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency)

© Crown copyright 2024  
Published: January 2024

## OGL

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit OGL or email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk). Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.



UK Health Security Agency supports the Sustainable Development Goals

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**