

Salford Public Health colleague testimonies

Peter Locke, Public Health Strategic Manager

I work to support Salford residents by providing strategic leadership for my portfolio of Physical Activity, Adult Healthy Weight, Workplace Health, Wider Determinants and Health in all policies. My work as a public health specialist is defined by the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Our residents are at the heart of what we do, and we work closely with external agencies when developing, managing, and implementing public health strategies, programmes and projects in response to local needs. Additionally, I have commissioning responsibilities in relation to several service contracts.

What does your workday look like?

I work 36 hours a week, but compressed over four days, as I look after my little boy, Adam on a Monday. I mostly work from home mostly and come to office on average one day a week, but sometimes more depending on any face-to-face meetings. Since I work in physical activity, I do my utmost to factor a walk or run in to my day and schedule my meetings to get regular breaks from the screen.

I work with a lot of people! Internally to the Public Health Team such as fellow Strategic Managers, Programme and Commissioning Managers, our Inequalities Improvement Team and Health Improvement Service, as well as our analysts and of course senior leadership team and business support colleagues. Externally, I work with too many people or partners to list on various different topics/programmes of work across many sectors. This is necessary when facilitating a whole system approach to improving population health to reduce inequalities.

As per the word 'Strategic' in the job title, it is vital for me to be able to see the bigger picture and 'join the dots', ensuring my work integrates with and enhances strategies/programmes on a local/regional and national level to get the best possible population health outcomes to reduce health inequalities in the most efficient way, including that local partners are collaborating effectively.

How did you get to where you are now?

I've been with Salford for 14 years and coming up to three years in my current role. I started in the Health Improvement Service in 2009 not long after finishing University after a brief stint in the fitness industry. I worked in a variety of frontline and managerial roles in Health Improvement, before successfully applying for my current role in late 2020.