

Video transcript

Sarah Quilty

Public health manager

My name's Sarah Quilty. I'm a public health manager and I work for Nottingham City Council.

What is the purpose of your role?

So as a public health manager I work on children and young people's agenda. The aim is to reduce health inequalities within ... for the population group of children and young people in Nottingham city. The main areas that I work on is around policy development, around particular vulnerable areas of, erm, that children are affected by within Nottingham city, so particularly children's emotional and mental health, children's domestic violence, avoidable injuries in children and young people, so preventing, err, children particularly aged four and under attending, err, and being admitted through A&E. And there's a clear deprivation correlation, so children who live in deprived areas are more likely to have more accidents in the home, err, have poor emotional wellbeing, have ... may be more likely to be, err, witness to or, erm, involved in domestic violence. So it's around that advocacy around, erm, those children to make sure that policy and interventions are developed to reduce those health inequalities within that population group of Nottingham.

What does your role involve?

A large part of [a] public health manager's job is around analysis of, erm, statically information, erm, to create ... to create information that everyone understands. So it's looking at those statics and translating them into what it really means for the population of Nottingham city. Equally it's around gathering the information that everybody collects within a local authority and distilling that and producing it back to the local authority to say these are the real issues. So with public health a lot of it's around gathering evidence from all different places and we're the thread that can bring all those different, er, independencies together, so we won't just look at children's social care, we would then look at children's social care, how housing is affecting the care of those children living in those houses that may not be fit for purpose. We then pull in, err, interventions around why that might be affecting their emotional health, so then we then ... so we horizon scan and make sure we bring

everything together so then people can then see the broader picture rather than looking at it quite silo-focused.

What are the challenges?

Having come from the NHS into a political environment of a local authority it's around the ... what the politicians want and what the officers want and what public health wants are sometimes three... three different things. So it's how public health can influence the priorities that are delivered within a local authority.

An important part of the job is around influencing and being an advocate for health and public health and in my case children's health and championing the fact that there are reasons why we need to deliver certain interventions, because children's health is at a disadvantage; and we know that children grow into adults. So it's around influencing decisions on how they spend their money and how we can work together in partnership better to create a better health outcome, which then impacts on their education and their future adult life.

What attracted you to public health?

The reason why I came into this job was I'm passionate about improving the health of people; and having worked with children, and working on the children's agenda, and having children of my own, I am passionate about making sure that all children have a best start in life, and making sure that children who may come from disadvantaged areas... we put things into place to help them have a future life. So that's the reason why I came into this job, that I'm passionate about improving health and I think that's the most.., you know, er, if you ask anyone in public health they want to make a difference and think that's why I came into this job.