

Would you like to  
live and work in  
**England?**



The NHS is looking for GPs to work in the areas of  
**CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE**

# INTRODUCTION

The National Health Service in England is running an international recruitment campaign for family doctors. In England these are called General Practitioners or GPs. We plan to recruit around 2,000 GPs from overseas by 2020. They will work alongside GPs we train in England to develop an exciting range of health services away from hospitals and in local community settings.

This brochure explains the importance of GPs in providing healthcare to our population. It tells you about the application process and what to expect when you apply. We are recruiting GPs for many areas across England. This brochure gives you an idea of the benefits and opportunities available to you if you choose to work in **Cheshire and Merseyside**.

## WHY WORK AS A GP IN ENGLAND?

GPs in England are the foundation of the NHS. They are usually the first person a patient turns to for help and they deal with a whole range of health problems. They are general experts in the whole field of medicine for adults and children. They manage the healthcare of all their patients, including acute illness, long term conditions and mental health problems.

GPs usually work in practices, often leading teams which include nurses, healthcare assistants, practice managers, receptionists and other staff. Practices also work closely with other healthcare professionals, such as health visitors, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health services and social care services.

GPs provide continuing medical care for patients in the community or they will refer patients to hospital clinics for further assessment or treatment by specialists. Nine out of 10 NHS patients are seen in English general practice, and nearly nine out of 10 patients rate their experience of their GP practice as good. Because GPs often lead the continuing development of the NHS in England, we are investing an additional £2.4bn a year into general practice by 2021. The money is being used to recruit more doctors and other healthcare professionals, improve buildings and extend the use of information technology so general practice can offer more and better services to meet people's needs.

Any GP recruited under the international recruitment programme and working in the UK before 29 March 2019 will be able to stay and enjoy the same rights and benefits as now and qualifications of EU doctors will continue to be recognised if they were obtained before 29 March 2019. Recruitment will go beyond March 2019 and while we do not know details of a future immigration system yet, we will make clear how it applies to this programme as soon as possible.

Many GPs choose to work in England because of the attractive salaries and benefits. But the work offers much more: the chance to extend your clinical experience as part of a team of 1.2 million NHS employees, all of whom are proud to work for a 'national treasure' and many of whom have come to England from across the globe.

# GENERAL PRACTICE AND YOU

- If you choose to apply to work as a GP in **Cheshire and Merseyside** you will be supported with dedicated training programmes, help with meeting language requirements and in meeting the standards of the national Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme.
- You will have an opportunity to meet with staff from the recruiting practices and to learn more about them and the local areas. This will help you and the practices decide if this is the best place for you to live and work.
- Practices involved in this recruitment scheme will be offering attractive and competitive salaries.
- You and your family will be offered help to relocate to the area and continued support while you settle into your new community.

## THE CANDIDATE PROCESS

If you apply to be a GP in England this is the application process you will follow:

### STEP 1

An initial conversation in your own country with the recruitment agency for the area you are interested in working in and some background checks (including police checks).

### STEP 2

You will be asked to take an English test organised by the recruitment agency. The agency will use the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English Test (medicine version) proficiency test for people wishing to study or work in English speaking countries.

### STEP 3

You will have a web based interview in your own country. If successful you will register with the General Practice National Recruitment Office (GPNRO) to gain access to online support material to help prepare you for the next steps. The GP National Recruitment Office (GPNRO) is the body responsible for coordinating the process for recruitment to GP Specialty Training (ST1) Programmes in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. You will also start your registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). The GMC is the organisation which sets standards for doctors in the United Kingdom. You need to be registered with the GMC to work as a doctor in England.

### STEP 4

You visit your chosen area to find out more about where you will be working and to meet other international GPs. You will have a second interview and an assessment of your learning needs.

### STEP 5

Once you pass your second interview you will be able to join the programme. You will be allocated to a GP practice within the region.

### STEP 6

You will be provided with a minimum of three months of training and observation in your employing practice to prepare you for the I&R assessments and improve your English language skills. You will then spend a minimum of six months treating patients with supervision and support from a senior GP at your practice.

# THE NHS OFFERS A

# COMPETITIVE PAY PACKAGE FOR GPs

Once you have gained entry to the National Medical Performers List without conditions you can expect to earn a salary of between £68,000 and £72,000 per year. This salary is the same across all parts of the NHS in England excluding London where you will receive additional funds to help with the increased living costs there, known as London weighting.

Alongside your salary there are many other financial benefits including paid maternity and paternity leave, parental and carers leave.

## THE NHS IN ENGLAND

The National Health Service was founded in 1948, based on the principle that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.

With the exception of some charges, such as prescriptions, optical services and dental services, the NHS in England remains free at the point of use for all UK residents.

In 2014, the Commonwealth Fund declared that in comparison with the healthcare systems of 10 other countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the US) the NHS was the most impressive overall. The NHS was rated as the best system for its efficiency, safety, effectiveness, co-ordination and patient-centred care.

The NHS covers

**54.3M PEOPLE**

in England



It deals with more than

**1M PATIENTS**

every 36 hours



The NHS employs

**1.2M PEOPLE**



And has more than

**40,500 GPs**





LIVING IN...

# CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

A heritage of big industrial towns and cities and beautiful countryside.

# HEALTH SERVICES IN

# CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

Cheshire and Merseyside has a population of over 2.5 million people. It is served by 12 hospital trusts including the world renowned Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, 375 general practices and a range of other mental health and community services.

Situated in the North West of England, with the stunning mountains, lakes and beaches of North Wales on its doorstep, Cheshire and Merseyside offers a mix of cosmopolitan city life and beautiful countryside and coastline.

It's home to the famous city of Liverpool with its impressive Albert Dock waterfront and iconic Liver Building, as well as historic Chester. It has vibrant and diverse communities and a tremendously fast growing economy.

The area has glorious rural landscapes, green spaces for cycling and walking and a rich cultural, musical and sporting heritage.

Along the beautiful coastline stretching from Crosby to Southport, beaches and dunes, surrounded by sweeping coastal pinewoods, provide plenty of opportunities for water sport activity and family fun days out.

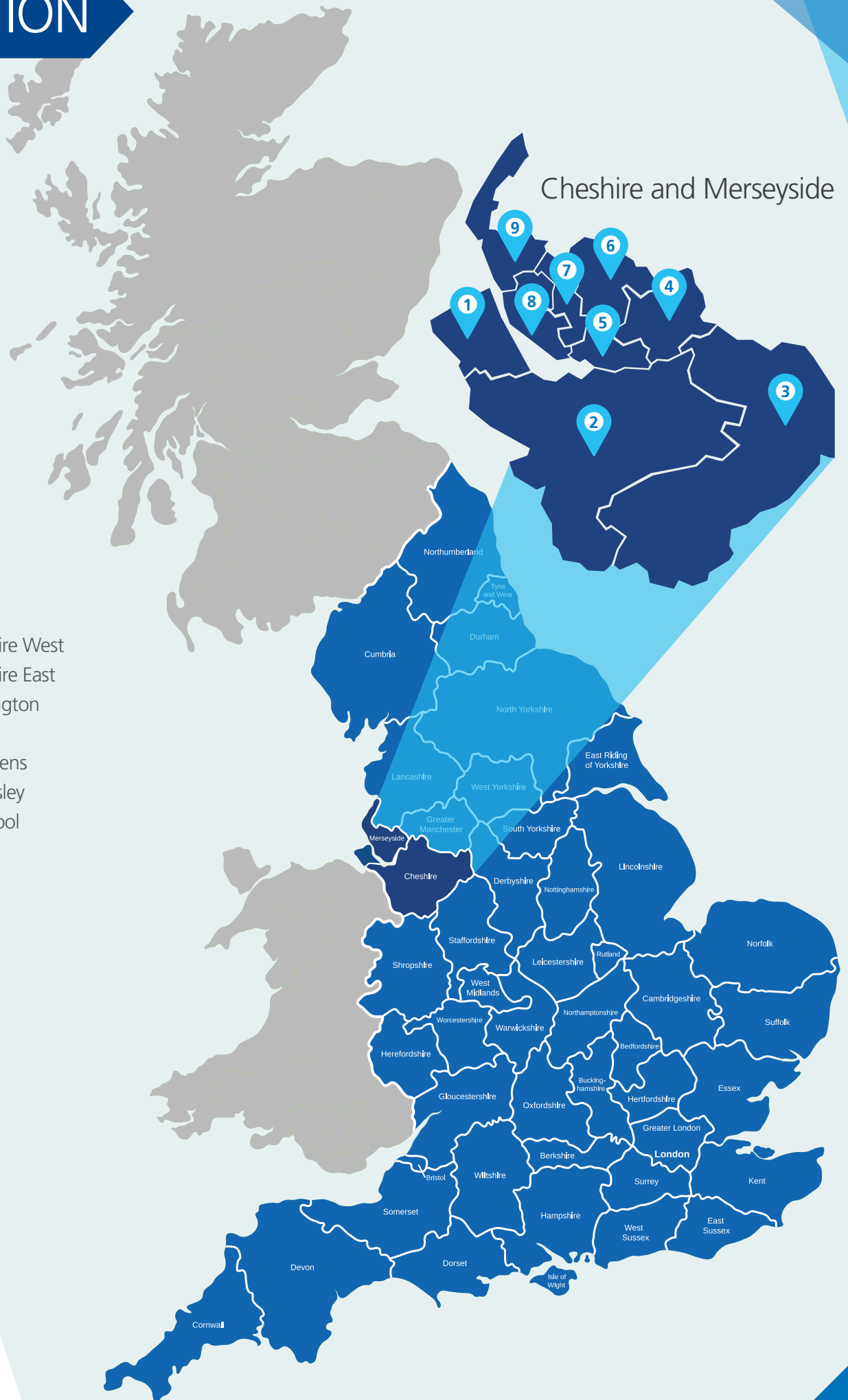


# LOCATION

## Cheshire and Merseyside

### KEY

- 1 – Wirral
- 2 – Cheshire West
- 3 – Cheshire East
- 4 – Warrington
- 5 – Halton
- 6 – St. Helens
- 7 – Knowsley
- 8 – Liverpool
- 9 – Sefton



## CHESHIRE

Cheshire is a large mainly rural county, with a high concentration of villages and small towns. Today the historic city of Chester is a contemporary city, bursting with must-see treasures, 2000 years of history and spectacular shopping.

Among its attractions are Chester Zoo, which offers fantastic family fun days out and Chester Racecourse offering a range of events. The city also has a wealth of hotels, many offering spa facilities, a wide selection of restaurants and much more.

The proximity of Chester and Liverpool enable residents to easily commute to the big cities for work, while also allowing them to enjoy countryside living.

Cheshire includes parts of the stunning Peak District, Britain's first national park. It is a landscape of contrasts ranging from dramatic moorland hills to limestone dales and rivers.

## MERSEYSIDE

Merseyside has five boroughs: Knowsley, St. Helens, Sefton, Wirral, and the city of Liverpool. It borders Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and the Irish Sea to the west.

There is a mix of high density urban areas, suburbs, semi-rural and rural locations in Merseyside.

Liverpool is a maritime city, where the River Mersey meets the Irish Sea. A key trade and migration port from the 18th to the early 20th centuries, it is also famously the hometown of The Beatles.

Ferries cruise the waterfront, where the iconic commercial buildings known as the 'Three Graces' – Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building and Port of Liverpool Building – stand on the Pier Head. Liverpool is a city with unique attractions, exciting events, world class sport, unrivalled musical heritage

and famously warm welcomes. With the largest collection of museums and galleries in the country outside London, Liverpool's culture and heritage are at the very heart of the city.

## NOT TO BE MISSED

Walk or cycle in the many areas of natural beauty across Cheshire and Merseyside including National Trust sites Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, or Delamere forest and the many beaches along the coast. Voted one of Britain's favourite walks, the Sandstone trail runs from the ancient market town of Frodsham to Georgian Whitchurch in rural north Shropshire.

Explore Chester and its rich heritage. Chester has the most complete city walls, the oldest racecourse and the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, as well as a 1000 year old Cathedral with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings. It is also home to Chester Zoo, the most visited UK attraction outside London, with 21,000 animals from 500 different species in acres of glorious gardens.

Discover the amazing coastline and beautiful countryside of the Wirral peninsula, offering 80 kilometres of fantastic rural walking routes, cycling routes and beaches.

Crosby Lakeside is a stunning Water Sports and Visitor Centre located in the heart of Crosby Coastal Park, forming part of the gateway to the Mersey Estuary, sitting alongside the internationally renowned Antony Gormley's Another Place Iron Men statues.

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre where you can explore the wonders of the universe and learn more about the workings of the famous giant Lovell Telescope.





## CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

From architecture to music, art to theatre, Cheshire and Merseyside's culture is renowned throughout the UK and the world.

National Museums Liverpool is a group of free museums and galleries: World Museum, Walker Art Gallery, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sudley House, Merseyside Maritime Museum, International Slavery Museum and the Museum of Liverpool. Liverpool is also home to the Tate and Bluecoat art galleries.

The cities of Liverpool and Chester are home to beautiful theatres like the Empire and the Storyhouse which feature classics from Shakespeare to beautiful opera and ballet right up to contemporary pop and rock music artists.

## EDUCATION

There is plenty of choice, from multi-cultural state schools to grammar schools.

There are a number of fee-paying private/independent schools and specialist colleges for those who are over 16, offering everything from academic qualifications to arts, cookery and construction courses.

There are five universities in Cheshire and Merseyside including the University of Liverpool and University of Chester. There are also a number of local colleges including the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Edge Hill University is one of the largest providers of health and social care education in the North West of England.

In 2016, 55% of secondary schools in Liverpool were judged as good or outstanding. In 2017, Cheshire was ranked as the number two place to raise a child in the UK, with 84% of schools rated as good or outstanding.

Liverpool Health Campus in the centre of the city's Knowledge Quarter encompasses the University of Liverpool, the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, 2Bio and the Liverpool Science Park.

The Health Campus provides for a concentration and co-location of research, industry and healthcare provision collaborating in health related research and clinical trials, making Liverpool a centre of global excellence in biomedical sciences.



## FOOD AND DRINK

Cheshire and Merseyside's food and drink culture is thriving with restaurants, bars and cafes. From fine dining, including Michelin starred restaurants to pop-up markets and street food from around the world.

## HOUSING

Average house prices in Cheshire and Merseyside sit at just over £221,000. However, some towns in Cheshire East (favoured by premier league footballers and other high income earners) such as Wilmslow and Alderley Edge, are much more expensive with average house prices of £587,000.

Suburban, rural, picturesque landscapes and quaint villages all form part of the lifestyle choices available across Cheshire and Merseyside.

You will find a wide range of properties in the area, from beautiful Victorian homes to terraced houses and new build family homes.

Liverpool City Centre and the Albert Dock offer one and two-bedroom modern penthouse and converted loft apartments.

Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington are all easily accessible to the M62 and are therefore popular with commuters with a variety of housing and a combination of good schools, great transport links (including the rail services) within easy reach.

## SHOPPING

Visitors travel from all over the world to shop in Cheshire and Merseyside. The shopping centres at Liverpool One, the Met Quarter, Cheshire Oaks designer outlet and Chester City centre offer the best of international and British shopping.

The recently developed Liverpool ONE, on the iconic waterfront is an open-air shopping district, home to more than 170 stores, bars and restaurants, including high street and designer favourites and the only Harvey Nichols Beauty Bazaar in the country.

## SPORT

Cheshire and Merseyside is home to two world-famous and iconic football teams, Liverpool and Everton. Both clubs offer stadium and club tours, as well as unique match day experiences.

The region is also known for its successful Rugby League teams including St Helens, Widnes Vikings and Warrington Wolves.

Horse racing is another well-known sport that takes place in Cheshire and Merseyside. Aintree Race Course is home to the Grand National race event with other famous race meetings taking place at Haydock and Chester Race Courses.

The area is also renowned for its golf courses, with Royal Birkdale and Hoylake having hosted the world famous Open.

For water sports enthusiasts Manley Mere in Cheshire and Liverpool Watersports Centre offer a host of exciting activities for beginners and experts alike.

## TRANSPORT

Cheshire and Merseyside is nationally and internationally connected by road, air, sea and train.

### TRAIN

Many train lines run through key towns in Cheshire. Crewe is famously well connected, with access to London Euston, Scotland, Wales, the Midlands and more. Services from Warrington Station run to Manchester, London and beyond.

Chester train station also connects with Liverpool, Manchester, Warrington, Wrexham, Birmingham and the West Midlands. You can be in London in around two hours from Chester, while you can get to Manchester in 50 minutes and Liverpool in 45.

### CAR

A quick glance at a map of Cheshire and Merseyside shows that it's lined with major motorways and A-roads. The most noteworthy are the M6 from Birmingham to Scotland, M56 from Ellesmere Port to Manchester, M53 from Chester to Liverpool and M62 from Manchester to Liverpool.

## AIR

Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport are both within a 40-minute drive of Cheshire. From either of these airports, you can head to destinations as far-flung as Orlando and Beijing. Budget airlines Ryanair and EasyJet leave from both airports for cheap travel across Europe.

## WEATHER

Summer temperatures can be pleasant reaching up to 23°C or more. In the winter temperatures drop to 6°C. In some parts of the county they can be lower with snow and ice, particularly in more remote areas.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about our international recruitment programme or about living and working in **Cheshire and Merseyside** the following websites will be useful:

Visit Liverpool – [www.visitliverpool.com](http://www.visitliverpool.com)

Visit Chester – [www.visitcheshire.com](http://www.visitcheshire.com)

Things to do in Cheshire – [www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/cheshire](http://www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/cheshire)

Things to do in Merseyside – [www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/merseyside](http://www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/merseyside)

National Trust – [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionnorthwest/north-west](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionnorthwest/north-west)



**NHS ENGLAND'S PARTNERS:**



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

General  
Medical  
Council



**BMA**



Health Education England

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.england.nhs.uk/igpr](http://www.england.nhs.uk/igpr)

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