

# Role Profile

Job Title	Social Researcher	Job Ref	MCAO434
Team	Insight Team	Grade	MCA 10
Reporting to	Principal: Insights and Analysis	Date last revised:	June 2025
Role Purpose			

# Role Profile

This is an exciting time to be part of SYMCA. As a Strategic Authority, we are eligible for the highest level of powers and funding through devolution, including eligibility for integrated settlement from April 2026, allowing us to align the priorities of people in South Yorkshire with how we spend our money. Our Mayor's commitments for South Yorkshire across growth, our communities, the environment and our health are underpinned by the six principles for how we work outlined in [our Corporate Plan](#). As part of this, we are developing our analytical capacity and capability even further, putting evidence at the heart of our thinking and taking innovative approaches to how we design and deliver for and together with the people of South Yorkshire.

This is a new role based in the Insight Team. This role will generate insight from social research and provide advice to senior leaders, focusing on Mayoral priorities and embedding our principles in everything we do. The post-holder will work closely with senior colleagues to scope and deliver social research projects that put people at the heart of decision making by identifying, investigating and reporting on social trends.

We are looking for someone with extensive experience in applying a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods to produce insights and advice that informs policy and service design. You will be adept at managing multiple research projects from their inception through to dissemination of findings, and working collaboratively across the policy, research and analytical ecosystem to design research with the utmost relevance to policy and service design. You will be experienced in working with a range of stakeholders, including working with members of the public and engaging senior audiences. You will also have a detailed understanding of research ethics and practical experience in abiding by principles and expected standards of ethical research.

## Principal Accountabilities

Responsible for leading the scoping and design of research projects, working with senior leaders across SYMCA to identify opportunities to influence policy and service design that will make a difference to outcomes for people in South Yorkshire.

Identify and justify the most appropriate research method to use to collect robust evidence.

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Conduct a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods to create primary datasets, abiding by principles and expected standards of ethical research.

Analyse qualitative and quantitative data to generate insight, giving appropriate consideration to quality assurance.

Work collaboratively together with the rest of the research, analysis and insight function and colleagues working on change and citizen experience and public service reform to utilise the full range of evidence available when generating insight and embed it in policy and service design.

Produce clear and engaging reports and presentations to communicate research findings and insight to a range of audiences, including senior officers and members of the public.

Work collaboratively with external partners, including Local Authority partners and university partners.

Manage multiple research projects without sacrificing quality or pace

Provide expertise on research methods, including thinking creatively about using innovative techniques, and ethical considerations to inform best practice across the wider organisation.

Undertake any other duties commensurate with the role as requested by management.

## Knowledge required for this role covering qualifications, experience, and skills

### Key

E = Essential / D = Desirable

Education to degree standard, with relevant training in social research.

A proven track record of effectively applying qualitative research methods and conducting qualitative analysis.

Demonstrable evidence of strong statistical analytical skills, including in relation to designing data collection and evaluation methods.

Significant knowledge of legal and ethical aspects of data collection and disclosure control and experience of abiding by principles and expected standards of ethical research.

E/D

E

E

E

E

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Experience in effectively managing multiple research projects, covering all aspects of scoping, design, delivery, reporting and dissemination.	E
Strong communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills with the ability to effectively communicate insight from complex analysis to non-technical audiences, as well as a variety of internal and external stakeholders at a senior level. Comfortable communicating complex matters both verbally and in writing.	E
The ability to establish strong collaborative relationships with a wide range of analysts and policy colleagues internally and in external partner organisations.	E
Experience running large scale surveys, including working together with stakeholders on survey design, managing data collection, analysis and dissemination of findings.	D
A track record of using different evaluation approaches, and a familiarity with government evaluation e.g. Magenta Book guidance	D

## About the Role – SYMCA's Behaviours

Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We nurture a supportive environment where new ideas are welcomed</li> <li>• We are stronger when we work together as one team</li> <li>• We actively engage with colleagues, stakeholders, and partners</li> <li>• We manage expectations and communicate our intentions and needs effectively</li> </ul>
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are an ethical, transparent, and inclusive organisation</li> <li>• We endeavour to reduce inequalities in South Yorkshire</li> <li>• We strive to do the right thing</li> <li>• We have a respectful environment where unethical behaviour can be challenged</li> </ul>
Ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We aim for innovation, adapting to changing circumstances</li> <li>• We work together towards common goals, overcoming barriers</li> <li>• We are passionate and strive for excellence, with a relentless focus on delivery</li> <li>• We shout about our successes internally and externally</li> </ul>

# Role Profile

## Accountability

- We take pride in our role and are publicly responsible for our results
- We are a community and businesses-focused organisation
- We listen to feedback, working to solve problems
- We offer a safe space to own our successes, mistakes, and setbacks

## Approvals

Colleague  
name:

Signature:

Date:

Line  
Manager  
name:

Signature:

Date: