



Job Description

This job description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work required of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list, and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job, or the level of responsibility entailed.

Post Details	
Job Title	Local Authority Research Practitioner (2-year fixed term)
Job Reference	713390
Service	Adult Social Care and Health
Team	Public Health
Location	Hybrid: home working/Shute End, Wokingham
Reports to	Public Health Intelligence Manager
Responsible for	No line management responsibilities
Grade	7
Contract Type	2-year fixed term
Hours	Full-time

Main Accountabilities	
1.	Work across the council to develop knowledge, understanding and skills for evidence use and research, ensuring relevance to policy, practice and local residents, including through provision of training and ad hoc support. This is with the aim of helping to build a culture of evidence-based practice and research in the council.
2.	To act as a point of advice and guidance for the council on research methodologies, including the design, development, ethical approval and administration of research studies.
3.	Raise awareness of public health themes and priorities that need to be addressed by national and local research, and develop local knowledge of the range of relevant public health research studies.
4.	Champion equity and inclusion in evidence-use and research, working with colleagues to engage residents from diverse local communities in local authority research. To include ensuring priorities and outcomes are co-developed with residents, (e.g. through community researchers), creative and inclusive research methods are used, and under-represented and marginalised groups are included in research. Ensure that participants in research are kept informed of study outcomes using appropriate forms of communication.
5.	Engage in networks and build partnerships for research in Wokingham Borough, including through the development and strengthening of relationships with academic institutions, health services, voluntary and community organisations, and other research-active councils across the Thames Valley.
6.	Develop a strategic approach to research and evidence use in the council, taking stock of current practice and capability, and considering governance, ethics and partnership working.
7.	Work within the council and with local partnerships to identify and apply for research funding opportunities





8.	Ensure that information governance, data protection and good ethical principles are followed. Ensure all research studies with residents and/or patients receive ethical approval from the appropriate committee or board prior to commencement and ensure Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement is practiced in research.
9.	Undertake shared responsibilities that all Local Authority Research Practitioners must uphold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively promote, support and contribute to the activity of the NIHR Specialist Centre for Public Health - Contribute to the sharing of best practice across local authorities as part of a LARP network - Link with NIHR Public Health Engagement Leads - Undertake regular reporting to the NIHR Specialist Centre for Public Health (Newcastle University and partners) to support the evaluation of the LARP roles and demonstrate impact on research capacity and capability in local authorities.

Person Specification	Essential	Desirable
Education/Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educated to degree level _or equivalent experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduate level with a Masters in public health, epidemiology, social sciences or equivalent experience of conducting research
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in academic environments on programmes of research, evidence generation or knowledge mobilisation or application (can include time in postgraduate study) • Application of quantitative and qualitative research methods • Design of research projects using a range of research methods applicable to social sciences • Conducting project evaluations and/or research projects • Engaging with multiple stakeholders and partners to deliver joint outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health economic analysis • Assessing the needs to the workforce and developing strategies to address them
Skills/Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of research funding systems, application processes, governance and ethics • Ability to plan projects and monitor progress against plans • Ability to deliver work to a high level of accuracy and bring a methodical and diligent approach to tasks • Demonstrated ability to clearly present complex information to a range of audiences in written and oral form, i.e., reports and presentations • Ability to prioritise tasks and organise work effectively to meet deadlines, including in the presence of competing demands on time • Excellent communication, negotiation, consultation and influencing skills tailored to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences and stakeholders • Ability to work on own initiative. 	
Behaviours/Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to keeping abreast of new evidence, national guidance and protocols, and research funding opportunities • Ability to negotiate and work with others as part of a busy team • Actively asks for and considers other people's views and opinions • Willing to undertake training and continuous professional development in connection with the post • Values equality, diversity and inclusion; and the difference in others 	





Purpose Details	
Service Purpose	The central aim of the Public Health service in Wokingham is to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, and to reduce unfair and avoidable differences in health and wellbeing. This includes working to protect the health of residents from communicable diseases. When appropriate, Wokingham Borough Public Health Team work at a Berkshire West or pan-Berkshire footprint to support matrix working on specific topics or at times of health protection need.
Role Purpose	<p>The Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP) will lead, promote and support evidence use, evaluation and research across Wokingham Borough Council, influencing the delivery of improved outcomes and value through evidence-based practice, and helping to build a culture of evidence use and research in the council.</p> <p>They will work with colleagues in public health and across the council, with local partners including academic, health and community sectors, and with local and national networks to develop capacity and capability for evidence use, evaluation and research, and a more systematic approach to this. They will also identify research funding opportunities. Throughout this work, they will prioritise and champion equity and inclusion.</p> <p>The post holder will sit within the public health directorate, in the public health intelligence team, reporting to the public health intelligence manager.</p>

Supervision and Relationships	
Supervision Received	Line management from the Public Health Intelligence Manager
Supervision Given	The post has no formal line management responsibilities. However, the post holder will be expected to work collaboratively with internal and external colleagues.
Contacts	To work in in close collaboration with officers from across directorates within the Council; local authority Public Health officers and public health specialists

Resources/Budget Management
No resource/budget management responsibilities

Special Requirements
No special requirements

Occupational Health Risk Assessment	Details
Skin/Respiratory Sensitisers	N
Working at Height	N
Exposure to Noise (>80-85dB)	N
Confined Spaces	N
Frequent Display Screen Equipment Use	Y: majority of working day will be spent using display screen equipment





Driving for Work	Y: commuting purposes only
Hand Arm Vibration	N
Lone Working	N
Healthcare/Social Contact with Patients	N
Blood Borne Viruses Exposure	N
Food Handling	N
Working with Animals	N
Specialised Medical Screening	N
Night Working	N
Safety Critical Work	N

Nature of the Role		Details
Healthcare or Hospital Work	N	
Working with Children (under 18)	N	
Working with Elderly/Vulnerable Adults	N	
Work Environment Details		Hybrid working between home and Shute End offices

Role Involvement		Details
Working with Children	N	
Working with Vulnerable Adults	N	
Both of the Above	N	
Providing Care/Supervision for Children	N	
Providing Care/Supervision for Vulnerable Adults	N	
Both of the Above	N	
None of the Above		See above

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)		Details
DBS Requirement		Yes - basic
Eligibility Tool		Find out which DBS check is right for your employee - GOV.UK

Re-checks





WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Not applicable

Evaluation Declaration

Date of Evaluation:

<DD/MM/YYYY>

Evaluated by:

<Name, job title>

