

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Health and Nature Lead Officer*

Directorate:	Growth, Environment and Transport
Unit/Section:	Environment and Circular Economy
Grade:	KSH
Responsible to:	Communications and Engagement Manager

Purpose of the Job:

The purpose of this role is to lead the Health and Nature Network to increase opportunities for people to improve their health through access to natural green space, with particular focus on sections of Kent's community who experience health inequalities and barriers to accessing nature. This will be done in partnership with a Network's wide range of stakeholders and partners.

The Kent Environment Plan 2025 sets out KCC's combined approach to improving Kent's environment, population health and economic development. Benefits of people connecting with green and blue space are reciprocated by people appreciating and being minded to care for and act for their environment. The Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy describes how the wider determinants of health, including access to green space, have a large part to play in determining the health outcomes of residents. Kent's Health and Nature Network will draw together the disciplines of nature and health to increase opportunities for people to protect and improve their health.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- **Lead** the work of the Health and Nature Network, in line with the strategies of the Public Health Directorate and Environment & Circular Economy Division. Chairing meetings driving agendas forward in liaison with internal and external stakeholders.
- Develop a **strategy** and action plans to set the future direction for green spaces and health in Kent, for the medium to long term, and make links to and influence other relevant strategies.
- Plan, implement and evaluate **projects**, ensuring impacts on health are embedded. Making complex decisions as necessary and ensuring that projects are delivered on time, on budget and as described in project documentation or funding agreements.
- Gather, **analyse** complex data and insight to influence policy, provide expert advice and identify priority areas for action, engaging with key stakeholders, including internal and external partners to develop and facilitate health and nature interventions.
- Work with **partners**, projects, stakeholders and user engagement to ensure effective and synergistic development of programmes of work.
- Work with senior staff to identify and secure future **funding**, income and development opportunities. Manage resources and budgets, meeting all procurement and reporting requirements from the funders and Kent County Council.

- Develop and implement **communications** at all levels, including to senior managers, elected members, giving presentations, written reports, and working with public health communications team to develop events, publicity, marketing, social media or other external or internal communications.
- Maintain an up-to-date **knowledge** and provide an expert advisory role for health and nature related research and good practice. To be responsible for advice and service delivery.
- Carry out any other duties as required commensurate with the responsibility and grading of the post.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what their main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

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Person Specification: *Health and Nature Lead Officer*

The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	CRITERIA
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate level qualification in an environmental or public health discipline or equivalent knowledge/professional experience.
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven experience in project and budget management. Proven experience in communication and engagement with varying stakeholders and extensive partnership working. Proven experience in interpretation and analysis of complex information. Understanding of risk management processes and prioritisation Proven experience working in teams with a range of partner organisations
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent interpersonal skills to support strong relationships with partners and other senior professional staff, including staff in partner agencies. Excellent communication skills of all types applied to a wide variety of needs and audiences. Proactive approach to problem solving and generating ideas to influence programmes and policy. Ability to make complex decisions within specialist area. Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to prioritise and manage workloads and undertake medium term project planning (12-18 months). Ability to work accurately under pressure of deadlines. Must work well in a team. Must be able to take instructions as well as lead on projects. Must have consideration for differing viewpoints to achieve positive outcomes. Strong ICT skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint) Commitment to equalities and promotion of diversity in all aspects of work.
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent knowledge of nature and health issues. Excellent knowledge of effective community and partner engagement techniques and approaches. Excellent knowledge of local authority responsibilities. Excellent knowledge of project management
KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES	<p>Kent Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are curious to innovate and improve• We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all• We are strong together by sharing knowledge• We are all responsible for the difference we make <p>Our values enable us to build a culture that is:</p> <p>Flexible/agile - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile</p> <p>Curious - constantly learning and evolving</p> <p>Compassionate and Inclusive - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</p> <p>Working Together - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent</p> <p>Empowering - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions</p> <p>Externally Focused - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making</p>
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