

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Public Health Officer*

Directorate: Adult Social Care and Health

Division: Public Health

Grade: KSG

Responsible to: Public Health Specialist

About us

Kent County Council's Public Health team commissions a wide range of services to improve the health and wellbeing of Kent residents, including sexual health services, drug and alcohol services, health visiting, school nursing, mental health promotion and weight management.

We are seeking a motivated and dynamic individual to support the coordination and delivery of our Whole Systems Approach to healthy weight Programme. This is a unique opportunity to drive meaningful change in obesity prevention across Kent through system-wide partnership and collaboration.

Purpose of the Role:

To support the delivery, implementation, and evaluation of the Whole Systems Approach (WSA) to obesity in Kent. The postholder will work in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders from public, private, voluntary, and academic sectors to promote healthy weight, reduce health inequalities, and embed system-level change. They will also contribute to the wider public health priorities.

Key Responsibilities

- Champion the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity within Kent County Council and among external partners to ensure strong stakeholder engagement and ownership.
- Coordinate and facilitate the Kent WSO Network, supporting existing members and proactively recruiting new partners to expand reach and impact.
- Organise and lead stakeholder subgroup meetings, focusing on themes such as physical activity, nutrition, and local environment, to align and coordinate actions across the system.

- Maintain and update the suite of public health mapping tools in collaboration with the Public Health Intelligence team to ensure high-quality, accurate data supports programme planning and monitoring.
- Coordinate implementation of local WSO action plans, ensuring alignment with strategic direction set by the WSO Core Working Group and Public Health leadership.
- Monitor stakeholder activities, support collaborative initiatives, and promote the exchange of good practice to broaden the scope and impact of the WSO Programme.
- Develop and maintain a detailed understanding of local services and initiatives related to obesity prevention and healthy weight.
- Facilitate referral pathways into One You Kent weight management services and support service engagement and evaluation.
- Support place-based interventions that reflect the unique needs of different communities across the county.
- Contribute to the reform and renewal of the WSO Programme, aligning with the Director of Public Health's commitment to addressing obesity, health inequalities, and population health.
- Promote innovation and continuous improvement in the delivery of obesity prevention strategies.
- Work closely with Public Health Specialists and Public Health Consultant to support integration of WSO efforts with local strategic agendas and policy environments.

The duties and responsibilities listed above describe the post as it is at present. The post holder is expected to accept any reasonable alterations that may from time to time be necessary without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of 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.

Kent County Council

Person Specification: *Public Health Officer – WSO Programme*

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

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

	CRITERIA
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educated to degree level or equivalent experience.• Project or Programme management qualification (or willingness to work towards one).
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in public health or a related field.• Demonstrated success in multi-agency partnership working and stakeholder engagement.• Experience in the design or delivery of Whole Systems Approach Programme, particularly related to obesity or health improvement.• Experience in evaluating Programme, analysing, interpreting and utilising health data.• Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, including the ability to communicate complex or sensitive information clearly to diverse audiences.
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent interpersonal, engagement, and relationship-building skills.• Strong IT and data management skills, with attention to detail.• Analytical thinking to interpret complex information and identify practical solutions.• Strategic planning, negotiation, and project coordination skills.• Ability to manage multiple priorities and meet tight deadlines.• Political awareness and understanding of working in a complex system.• Commitment to addressing health inequalities and promoting equity and inclusion.
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good understanding of public health principles, particularly related to obesity, wider determinants of health and health inequalities.• Knowledge of national and local public health strategies and priorities.• Familiarity with partnership and systems-based working.• Understanding of data protection and confidentiality requirements.• Ability to travel across Kent as required.

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• 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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