

Job Description

Job Title: Health Protection Specialist

Report to: Acting Director of Public Health

Grade: P4

Overall purpose of the job

Work to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of the Cambridgeshire population and reduce health inequalities.

To contribute to the achievement of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Strategic Ambitions, the Joint Health and Wellbeing and Integrated Care Partnership Strategy, other related strategies, and the achievement of Public Health Outcomes

The post will work strategically and operationally with internal and external stakeholders and will have the following key responsibilities:

To deliver the local authority health protection providing system leadership, coordination, and assurance across a range of organisations to ensure local systems are in place to respond to an outbreak or emergency that impacts the health of Cambridgeshire residents, ensuring that risks are mitigated and controlled.

Provide strategic local leadership to support mitigation of health protection risks for Cambridgeshire, such as low childhood immunisation rates and complex TB cases.

Support the local response to health protection incidents and outbreaks and emergencies. They will participate in Outbreak/Incident Management Teams, to help inform decisions about the appropriate level of response from providers and working alongside United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to agree the resources needed to be released. They will support the mobilisation of council resources required to support an incident.

Main accountabilities

Please list the accountabilities in descending order of priority. Please include 6-9 accountabilities.

Main accountabilities	
1.	<p>Leadership/strategic functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the Local Authority's Public Health statutory response to outbreaks and other health protection emergencies/incidents alongside the Director of Public Health and the Consultant lead. • Provide first point of contact specialist knowledge, support, and advice on health protection for the Public Health Directorate. • Act as lead representative of Cambridgeshire County Council at Incident Management Teams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputise where appropriate for Consultants in Public Health and Director of Public Health. • Lead and where appropriate support horizon scanning, surveillance and reporting of health needs, health inequalities and health impact assessment health protection. • Lead the ongoing, longer-term mitigation of health protection system issues in Cambridgeshire in close collaboration partners; determining priority areas and system workstreams related to health protection and public health response with the aim of reducing health inequalities relating to health protection, screening, and immunization. • Contribute to the delivery of key strategic objectives of Cambridgeshire County Council, the Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Boards and Integrated Care Partnership and the multi-agency Health Protection Partnership.
2.	<p>Operational functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and escalate the local management of incidents and outbreaks of infectious diseases and non-infectious environmental hazards as appropriate, involving the Consultants in Public Health and Director of Public Health as needed. • Provide high quality strategic and operational advice to inform local authority Health Protection based on thorough knowledge of national legislation, and guidance for health protection from the Department of Health, NHS England, and UK Health Security Agency. • Deal with, at times, challenging and/or conflicting subject matter problems in day-to-day workload meetings and one to one communications referring/escalating to line management as appropriate. • May be required to participate in a local on call rota as required. • Manage the CCC Public Health directorate's health protection-related budget as appropriate. • Contribute to specified quality improvement and governance initiatives as agreed.
3.	<p>Strengthening Health Protection Function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead proactively the wider organisational development in health protection. • Support the development of individuals, the public health directorate and council through feedback, training, coaching, and mentoring. • Ensure compliance with all confidentiality and governance requirements within the team/Directorate health protection functions.
4.	<p>Key Working Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of effective working relationships and regular communications regularly with a wide range of individuals, clinical and non-clinical, internal, and external to CCC that are essential for developing system wide strategic approach to health protection and are necessary in outbreak or other health protection emergency situations. • Work regularly with all directorates across the council developing core relationships with Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Trading Standards.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have effective working relationships with key partner organisations include Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, UKHSA, NHSE. Key partnerships include the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Protection Partnership, District Councils especially Environmental Health, Immunisation Board, Infection Prevention and Control Board and TB Network as well as the voluntary sector. • Report and advice the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum, if necessary, e.g. epidemic outbreak calling for a system response.
5.	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the development and implementation of health protection campaigns for both prevention and response working with the CCC and ICB communication teams ensuring that the health protection information is correct and of high quality. • Work with the Behaviour Science Lead to provide behaviour insights into the development of any campaigns and other Health Protection communications. • The post holder will brief Local Authority colleagues and elected members regarding health protection incidents/outbreaks and support UKHSA communications in local settings and with local leaders.
6.	<p>Line Management and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake line management responsibilities as agreed. • Participate in organisational and professional development. • Pursue a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to develop and maintain current professional knowledge and skills, including any mandatory training.
7.	Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of equality, diversity, and inclusion.
8.	Ability to contribute to our organisational commitment to becoming a Net Zero organisation by 2030.
9.	We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults. We require you to understand and demonstrate this commitment.

Person Specification

Qualifications, knowledge, skills, and experience

Minimum level of qualifications required for this job.

Qualifications Required	Subject	Essential/ Desirable
Bachelor's degree or equivalent, relevant experience	Public Health or related discipline	E
Recognised graduate or postgraduate level qualification	Infection Prevention and Control or demonstrable equivalent experience	E
Master's degree	Public Health, or higher degree in a related subject, or experience in Health Protection with documented experience at master's level	D

Minimum levels of knowledge, skills and experience required for this job.

Identify	Describe	Essential/ Desirable
Knowledge		
of Public Health and its underlying principles.	Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the Public Health population approach. Along with a knowledge of the key public health principles, especially its focus upon health inequalities and evidence-based practice.	E
Key public health concepts, theories, and policy	Know and understand Public Health concepts and theories for example behavioural change, wider determinants of health or Marmot's "Health Gap". The candidate should be able to describe these and their implications for the health of the population.	E
Health Protection	Sound knowledge of the principles of health protection	E
Health Protection	Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of current legislation and guidance for health protection.	E
Health Protection	Thorough knowledge and understanding of current legislation and guidance for health protection	E

Health Protection	An understanding of and ability to work under the current Health and Social Care Act (e.g. safeguarding vulnerable adults; data protection, information governance)	E
Skills		
Relationship management	Strong stakeholder engagement and relationship management skills with the ability to work collaboratively across teams, disciplines and organisations demonstrating respect and consideration for the role/ skill(s) of others.	E
Provision of expert information and advice	Ability to analyse and interpret information in an effective manner to recommend an appropriate course of action to address the issue(s) to different parts including senior levels of the system.	E
Outbreak and other health protection situations	<p>Excellent planning and prioritisation skills and ability to manage competing demands.</p> <p>Proven ability to problem solve whilst working in an unpredictable environment, often under pressure and to tight timescales.</p> <p>Ability to demonstrate initiative and work independently with minimum supervision.</p>	E
Experience	Give an idea of the type and level of experience required do not specify years of experience.	
Health protection	High level of experience of managing health protection outbreaks and experience	E
Influencing partners and system leaders	Experience of building and developing effective influential stakeholder relationships	E
Effective operational working	Proven experience of undertaking and completing projects on time and within complex and challenging environments	E
Flexibility	Experience of working in community settings and with health care providers	D

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (applies to all roles).	Ability to demonstrate awareness and understanding of equality, diversity, and inclusion and how this applies to this role.	Essential
Net Zero (applies to all roles).	Ability to contribute towards our commitment of becoming a net zero organisation.	Essential
Safeguarding (applies to all roles working with children/vulnerable adults).	Demonstrate an understanding of the safe working practices that apply to this role. Ability to work in a way that promotes the safety and well-being of children and young people/vulnerable adults.	Essential

Disclosure level

What disclosure level is required for this post?	None	Standard
	Enhanced x	Enhanced with barred list checks

Work type

What work type does this role fit into? (tick one box that reflects the main work type, the default work type is hybrid)	Fixed	Hybrid x	Field	Remote	Mobile
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