

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Local Authority Research Practitioner - 2 year fixed term contract</b>		
<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Salary:</b>	<b>£52,805</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>Public Health</b>	<b>Grade:</b>	<b>BG-D</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Hybrid (Time Square)</b>	<b>Work Style:</b>	<b>Flexible</b>

### Key Objectives of the role

Bracknell Forest Council has an exciting role for a motivated and enthusiastic officer to promote and support research across the Council, influencing the delivery of better value and improved outcomes through the use of evidence-based practice.

The Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP) is a new post within the Public Health team at Bracknell Forest. The LARP postholder will support Bracknell Forest Council to increase research capacity through training, partnerships with academic institutions, and collaboration with public health data analysts and the behavioural insights Lead, promoting a systematic approach to research across the organisation.

Local Authority Research Practitioners (LARPs) work with their councils to make the most of research. They look at what research is already happening, figure out what needs to be done next, help different teams apply for money to fund research, and teach staff how to do quality research.

The postholder will have a strong background in research and developing a research culture within an organisation with experience of leading research team(s) or department(s) and related strategies. The LARP will work closely alongside, and collaborate with, colleagues in existing research-related roles, such as our Behavioural Insights Practitioner and Public Health data analyst. The LARP post will therefore help to expand, and give greater presence to, the wider local health intelligence function.

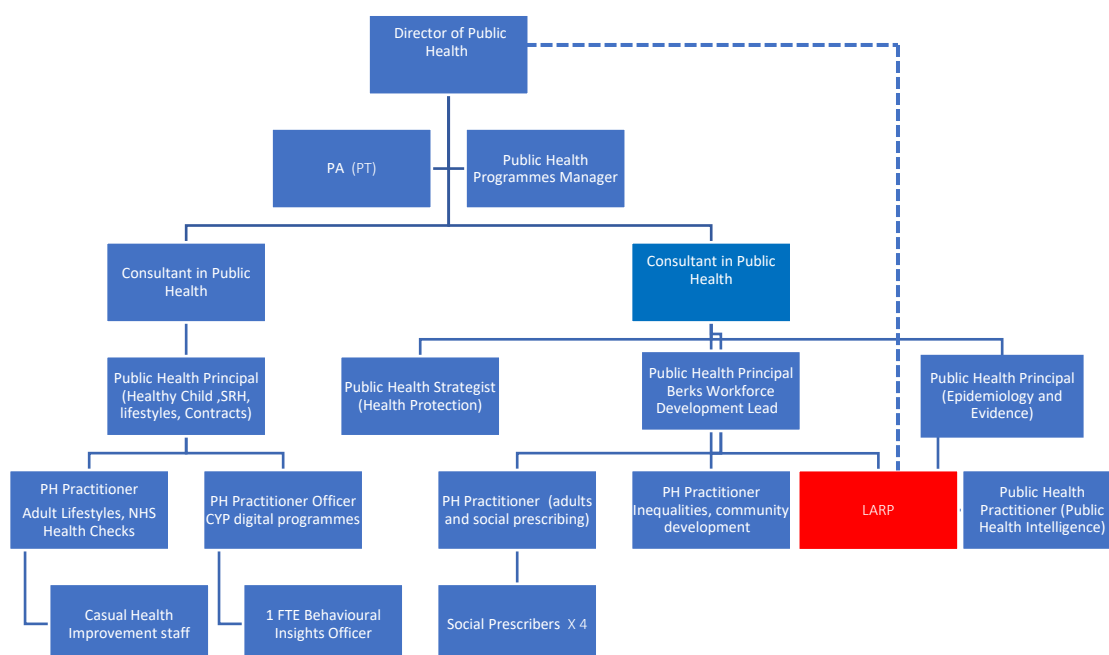
As this is a new post, the postholder has an opportunity to shape it to support the objectives of building capacity and capability within the organisation. The LARP postholder will therefore be self-motivated with the ability to plan and progress own workload and achieve demonstrable outcomes.

The post will influence strategic decision-making by providing evidence-based insights and supporting the implementation of research findings into policy and practice.

## Designation of post and position within departmental structure

The post will sit within the Public Health Team and will directly report to the Public Health Principal for wider determinants on a day-to-day basis. The Director of Public Health (DPH) will also have close oversight of the post and its progress. Bracknell Forest's DPH takes the lead senior responsible office role for academia, research and workforce development for East Berkshire as a whole. The direct link to the DPH will support this post holder in establishing strategic and academic links and relationships across the wider system and be part of a growing Public Health research network across East Berkshire.

The post will also work closely with the Public Health Principal for Health Intelligence and the Behavioural Insights Officer to build the research capability of the Public Health team and organisation.



## Daily and monthly responsibilities

- Assess current research capacity and capability within the organisation through engagement, research skills audits and mapping existing research activities.
- Increase research capability and confidence by supporting senior officers to identify opportunities where research evidence would enhance decision making.
- Promote and advocate for robust research practices throughout service or programme development.
- Develop and implement a research governance framework including an internal research network of key officers.
- Design and facilitate targeted training programme to build research capacity and promote a culture of applied research and evidence.
- Develop a council-wide research strategy, in collaboration with council officers and partners using best practice from other areas. Through this strategy, support the use of mixed research methodologies to inform decisions and learning (e.g. behavioural insights, feasibility studies, formative and summative evaluations, cost-benefit analyses, and social impact).

- Lead and support the development and submission of significant research proposals to external funders, positioning the council for future grant opportunities.
- Lead strategic collaborations with academic institutions, public health networks, voluntary sector organisations, and NHS partners to identify and secure external funding for public health research projects.
- Identify possible models of collaboration that engages partners in the trial of innovative projects that have been effective in other Local Authorities.
- Facilitate new local communities of practice bringing together key stakeholders to support research and evaluation.
- To engage diverse community members in local authority research, ensuring their input shapes priorities and outcomes, e.g. through the use of community research panels or by ensuring under-represented groups are included in research.
- Contribute to the sharing of best practice across Local Authorities as part of a LARP network.
- Actively promote, support and contribute to the activity of the SCPH.
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- Link with Public Health Engagement Leads (PHELs).
- Undertake regular reporting to the SCPH (Newcastle University and partners) to support the evaluation of the LARP roles and demonstrate impact on research capacity and capability in Local Authorities.

## Scope of role

Whilst this is a relatively senior role, there is no budget or resource control. However, there may be budget responsibility on successful application of any research award contracts or partnerships e.g. with academic institutions or managing research contracts.

The post does not require any line management responsibility but may require management of suppliers and providers of research including research partners.

Commitment to the Council's Equal Opportunities policy at all times

Commitment to working within the bounds of the Data Protection Act and GDPR legislation at all times

Such other duties as may from time to time be necessary, compatible with the nature of the post. It should be noted that the above list of main duties and responsibilities is not necessarily a complete statement of the final duties of the post. It is intended to give an overall view of the position and should be taken as guidance only

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

KEY CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<b>Skills and qualifications</b>	<p>Post Graduate qualification reflecting strong research skills OR equivalent experience of conducting research (ideally in a health related field on the wider determinants of health)</p> <p>Degree in public health or health related field</p>	<p>Masters in Public Health, Research methods or related subject.</p> <p>Project management qualification</p> <p>Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development</p>
<b>Competence Summary</b> (Knowledge, abilities, skills, experience)	<p>Significant experience relating to leading research in a health related field and/or public health</p> <p>Specialist knowledge and skills in mixed research methods</p> <p>Experience in leading research to inform and/or evaluate projects and community health interventions</p> <p>Skills and experience in engaging internal and external stakeholders in research and upskilling awareness raising around applied research and evidence</p> <p>Experience in evaluation and reporting on progress and outcomes to internal stakeholders</p> <p>Ability to prepare high quality written reports and presentations.</p> <p>Ability to engage both lay and expert audiences in research and communicate research outcomes to a wider range of audience</p> <p>Self-motivated and ability to plan and progress own workload</p> <p>Ability to work flexibly, develop good working relationships, develop community links and communicate effectively with council officers, stakeholders and partners</p>	<p>Experience in securing external funding for research</p> <p>Experience in embedding a research culture in an organisation</p> <p>Experience in developing and delivering research and evaluation strategy on behalf of an organisation</p>

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Experience in using research to influence policy and practice

Ability to work independently as well as in a team

Knowledge of health inequalities across physical, mental and social wellbeing, together with an appreciation of the wider determinants of health.

Knowledge of methods of developing evidence based practice

Knowledge of health intelligence and data sources.

Applied knowledge of use of Excel, Word and PowerPoint

Understanding of and commitment to the requirements of safeguarding children, young people, vulnerable adults and promoting their welfare.

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**Work-related  
Personal  
Requirements**

Hybrid working with at least 20% based in Bracknell Forest Council Offices, Time Square.

There may be requirements to occasionally travel to events to support the role e.g. local and regional research network meetings and events.

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**Other Work  
Requirements**

A satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

This role has been identified as public facing in accordance with Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016; the requirement to fulfil all spoken aspects of the role with confidence in English applies.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

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**Role models  
and  
demonstrates  
the  
Council's  
values and  
behaviours**

Our values define who we are. They outline what is important to us. They influence the way we work with each other – and the way we serve our residents and engage with our communities.

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We make our values real by demonstrating them in how we behave every day.

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**All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the Council's Equality & Dignity at Work policy at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and Council policies/procedures.**

