



LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

**POST TITLE: Public Health Lead for Covid Resilience
(Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan)**

Grade: MG2

DIVISION/SECTION: Public Health

Location:

(Currently remote working, postholder may be required to attend Council premises as and when required)

Responsible to: The Director of Public Health.

Responsible for:

Programme Lead (Covid-19 Test, Trace & Isolate)

Management Support Officer (Covid-19 Local Outbreak & Management Plan)

Other staff as required

Post number: TBC

Date: April 2021

MAIN PURPOSE

The post holder will be the lead for the development and implementation of action plans to deliver the refreshed covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) and longer-term Covid-resilience and recovery arrangements across the council. Merton's refreshed LOMP is a strategic high level document of our local outbreak management priorities over the next year. It is part of the national covid resilience arrangements, complementing the national Contain framework and outbreak management toolkits and regional plans. The aim of the plan is to keep local Covid-19 infections as low as possible while coming out of lockdown and restarting economic activity and recovery and enabling "living with covid safely" beyond June 2021.

The postholder is expected to work with colleagues across the council to develop detailed action plans for delivering the strategic priorities in the most effective, equitable and sustainable way, taking into consideration the changing roles of NHS Test & Trace and Public Health England and the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) monies available. Priorities include in particular development of the future models for i) local contact tracing partnership with integrated self-isolation support ii) community testing and iii) rapid response to variants of concern, all with a focus on embedding equity, working closely with our communities and explicitly learning from the pandemic response for sustainable resilience. The postholder needs to ensure overall coherence of the different parts of outbreak management and realise opportunities for integration and mainstreaming of functions, so outbreak management becomes an integral part of the permanent council resilience arrangements and business as usual.

The initial timeline follows the milestones of the roadmap until June 2021 and extends until March 2022 in recognition of the potential for another wave in the winter. The development of sustainable council resilience and recovery arrangements have a longer time horizon with focus on preparedness and agility to stand up and down capacity and capability depending on threat.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This position is a senior leadership role working closely with priority leads from Public Health and Public Protection, providing senior leadership, advice and support to colleagues within the public health department and public protection and services across the Council and other partner organisations.

The post-holder will fully and directly manage including appraise relevant Public Health/Public Protection staff and manage delegated budgets.

The postholder may be asked to take on delegated tasks on behalf of the Director of Public Health or Assistant Director of Public Protection as well as representing the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Director of Public Protection and their service at meetings and events, as required.

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Lead on the development, implementation and delivery of strategic plans, programmes and policies relating to the Local Outbreak Management Plan and recovery plans in order to ensure the following priorities are achieved:

Reducing inequalities - Advocate at a senior level for change in policies and programmes to address and reduce the disproportionate impact of covid-19 and inequalities in all aspects of outbreak management, resilience and recovery

Infection prevention and control – Take a leading role in ensuring that Infection prevention and control is embedded as an integral and sustainable part of service quality, focus on high risk settings such as care homes, other Adult Social Care settings, inclusion health groups, schools and Early Years.

Community testing and Local contact tracing partnership & self-isolation - – Lead on the community testing strategy and further develop and implement a programme to effectively engage communities and businesses in tracing, self-isolation strategies and other interventions to increase resilience in the short and longer-term.

Variant of Concern - Develop and lead on a sustainable approach for variant tracking and preparedness for future outbreaks of variants.

Vaccination – Lead on the drive to increase the equitable uptake of vaccinations to enable local resilience and recovery in the short and longer-term.

Communication and Engagement – Lead on and provide a strategic plan outlining clear and consistent communication and engagement that drive behaviours and safety. Engage closely with key partners & stakeholders, including elected members.

Data & insights - Take a leading role in guiding and ensuring that outbreak management and resilience is driven by data, intelligence and evidence of effectiveness of interventions.

Compliance and enforcement - develop and lead on a proportionate and fair enforcement programme complementary to community engagement integrating a bespoke support for self-isolation and consider longer-term resilience arrangements.

Provide a high level expert public health advice related to covid-19 and leadership to support and inform an evidence-based approach within ethical frameworks for developing high quality, equitable covid-19 related health services and programmes, dealing with resilience and recovery.

Analyse, complex public health issues related to covid-19 and undertake needs assessment, research and critical appraisal to inform evidence-based public health interventions to strengthen resilience and recovery.

Lead on covid-19 related public health research, commission research audits/projects, and undertake research or audit.

Lead and support the strategic development, delivery, evaluation and performance management of programmes and services designed to improve health related to covid-19, including recovery.

Provide clarity on roles and responsibilities enabling strong joint working arrangements between local authorities and external partners, relating to Covid resilience and recovery.

Lead on and keep oversight of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and develop sustainable spending programme in line with LOMP priorities. Hold responsibility for a complex budget of £4million which is likely to increase by a further million. Develop longer-term sustainable resilience arrangements across the council within existing and future resources available.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Areas of work will change over time dependant on the needs and priorities of the department and the Council particularly in relation to the different stages of the pandemic any potential future threats.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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Education/Qualifications	<i>To be demonstrated</i>
Inclusion in the GMC Specialist Register/GDC Specialist List/UK Voluntary Register (UKPHR) for Public Health Specialists or equivalent experience	A
• Applicants must meet minimum CPD requirements (i.e. be up to date) in accordance with Faculty of Public Health requirements or other recognised body	A
MFPH by examination, by exemption or by assessment or equivalent postgraduate degree	A
High standards of professional probity	A/I
Commitment to work within a political system irrespective of personal political affiliations	A/I
Experience	
Experience of using complex information to explain public health issues, in particular covid-19 related issues, to a range of audiences	A/I
Staff management	A/I
Practical experience in facilitating change, including delivery of successful change management programmes	A/I
Budget management skills at senior management level	A/I
Project management skills at senior management level	A/I
Skills	
Ability to cope with multiple and changing demands and be able to meet tight deadlines	A/I
A high level of intellectual rigour, political awareness, negotiation and motivation skills and flexibility	A/I
A high level of tact and diplomacy	A/I
Strategic thinker with proven leadership skills	A/I

Excellent oral and written communication skills (including dealing with the media, where required)	A/I
Effective interpersonal, motivational and influencing skills	A/I
Ability to lead, manage and respond appropriately in unplanned and unforeseen circumstances	A/I
Excellent presentational skills (oral and written)	A/I
Sensible negotiator with practical expectation of what can be achieved	A/I
Computer literate	A/I
Ability to design, develop, interpret and implement strategies and policies in relation to covid-19	A/I
Able to influence senior members including directors and CEOs	A/I
Able to prioritise work, and work well against a background of change and uncertainty	A/I
Self-motivated, pro-active and innovative	A/I
Knowledge	
Understanding of the priorities of the refreshed covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP).	A/I
Understanding of social and political environment within Public Health and Public Protection	A/I

Criteria Test: A = Application Form

I = Interview