

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Senior Environmental Health Practitioner		
Service	Regulatory and Operational		
Reporting to	Service Manager (Food & Safety, Private Sector Housing or Environmental Protection)		
Grade	9		
Evaluation ref:	RP180	Job Family ref:	
Role purpose			
The Senior Environmental Health Practitioner plays a key role in protecting public health, safety and wellbeing by delivering high-quality environmental health services across a range of regulatory areas. The postholder will lead on complex casework, provide specialist advice, and ensure compliance with relevant legislation, policies and professional standards. Working both independently and as part of a wider team, the role supports the effective management of environmental risks, contributes to service improvements, and helps safeguard communities through proportionate enforcement and preventative interventions. In addition to operational delivery, the role provides technical leadership, guidance and mentoring to colleagues, supporting the development of professional practice and consistency across the service. The postholder will work collaboratively with internal teams, partners and stakeholders to deliver corporate priorities, respond to emerging issues, and contribute to strategic objectives. This includes representing the service in partnership forums, influencing policy development, and ensuring that service delivery remains customer-focused, evidence-based and aligned to organisational priorities.			
Accountabilities			
Develop specialist expertise and undertake duties and responsibilities within specific topic areas in accordance with all related Acts and regulations as they apply. To carry out a range of programmed inspections (high & medium risk) in accordance with relevant legislation, regulations, and codes of practice and within written procedures where appropriate to ensure their compliance in respect of one of the following area; Food Safety and Health & Safety (FS), Private Sector Housing (PSH) or Environmental Protection (EP). To investigate and carry out follow up procedures in respect of complaints made concerning any aspect of their Environmental Health specialism. The role holder will be responsible for managing own caseload and will identify and deliver solutions to diverse and complex issues with minimal support from the Service Manager. To assist the Service Manager to investigate serious or contentious matters, including complaints from the Ombudsman, or local councillors.			

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To advise the Service Manager of performance of the team and ensure performance data is accurate and properly recorded. To provide reports at the request.

Give professional advice, guidance and assistance to other departments, professions, trades, general public, outside agencies and councillors, as necessary. Participate in internal and external training and education activities.

To represent the Service and the Council within professional, Local Government and community circles and maintain professional networks to keep abreast of new ideas and approaches.

To collect evidence in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and to prepare reports and statements while instigating legal proceedings, such as serving statutory notices, apply for warrants or initiating legal proceedings and preparing prosecution case files. To attend court, appeals, tribunals and Coroner's inquests to give evidence as required. In addition, check technical accuracy of notices to be served by members of the team.

To contribute to the development of policies and procedures and assist in the in-service training and development of colleagues.

Due to the nature of Environmental Health occasional work outside normal working hours to attend meetings, carry out inspections/visits/monitoring will be required.

Any other reasonable duties of a similar nature requested by Management.

Management

To assist the Service Manager to plan, manage and coordinate the work of the Team to ensure services are delivered to the required standard in terms of legislation, government guidance and Council policies and performance requirements.

To supervise the staff and work of the team providing professional, technical, legal and practical advice and guidance to team members as necessary. Undertake occasional supervision of other officers at the request of the Service Manager e.g., Enforcement Officers / Regulatory Support Officer.

To assist with the training and mentoring of officers within the section.

To promote the development and maintenance of high professional standards throughout the work of the team and undertake peer reviews.

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Impact

The post holder will deal with complex service requests, inspections and applications and act the lead officer within a team of officers (between 6-12 officers) across the Somerset district.

Coach and mentor EHP's within the service, sharing knowledge that will improve the experience for the customer, ensure service delivery and consistency across Somerset.

Knowledge / Experience / Qualifications / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
Up to date comprehensive knowledge of legal, technical and professional matters in relation to Environmental Health areas of responsibility, legislation and codes of practice including PACE & RIPA.	X	
Political awareness and understanding of the Councils decision-making processes.	X	
Knowledge and understanding of Health & Safety legislation and requirements within the organisation.	X	
Understand the principles of data protection	X	
Experience		
Experience of a range of enforcement activities.	X	
Experience of undertaking a range of investigatory techniques in respect to complaints, inspections and sampling.	X	
A demonstrable track record and consistent achievement at professional level within an organisation of comparable scope and complexity.	X	
Experience in dealing with and enforcing Environmental Health legislation.	X	
Facilitates organisational, individual and personal learning and development.		X
Experience with working with elected members, or in a political environment.		X
Relevant local government experience and understanding of the whole local government sector and its current challenges.		X

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Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
BSc (Hons) Environmental Health, MSc Environmental Health or equivalent degree.	X	
Member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	X	
Registered with the Environmental Health Officers Registration Board.	X	
Evidence of continuing development of professional skills, e.g. through training, qualification and/or experience in line with CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) requirements and Food Law Code of Practice competencies for authorised officers (where appropriate).	X	
Post-graduate qualification in a relevant subject area to the post.		X
Skills		
Demonstrate experience of a range of statutory inspection types and risk categories including food premises, Houses of Multiple Occupation and Environmental Permitting.	X	
Ability to lead, motivate, enthuse, inform and develop others to improve capability levels within the team.	X	
Numerate and analytical with the ability to interpret, analyse and extract relevant information from complex reports and translate these so that they are capable of being understood by a wide range of people.	X	
Able to prepare and present reports on general and specific related matters to non-experts in a clear and comprehensible manner.	X	
Able to demonstrate a strategic thinking capacity and be proactive in developing and implementing continuous improvement across the service.		X
Working Conditions		
Office and outside working.		
Occasional exposure to disagreeable, unpleasant or hazardous environmental working conditions, commercial kitchens, houses of multiple occupation, industrial premises, farms etc.		
Occasional unsocial hours and weekend working.		
Lone working.		
Working Arrangements		
Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position. The role will require occasional work outside normal working hours to attend meetings, carry out inspections/visits/monitoring.		

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Corporate Responsibilities

Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.

Deliver the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: