Contract Manager

JE Code: JE2547



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| **Values – We are dedicated, respectful, collaborative, we are Milton Keynes City Council** | |
| **Service:** | Adult Services |
| **Reports To:** | TBC |
| **Job Family:** | Professional and Technical |
| **Grade:** | H |
| **Political Restricted:** | N |
| **Date:** | August 2023 |

**Key Deliverables**

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| **1.** | Responsibility for ensuring the delivery of high quality and value for money commissioned services, in line with contractual requirements, across Adult and Children’s services. The post holder will ensure contracts are administered appropriately, that contractual compliance measures are in place and that contracts are suitably monitored and managed. This will include the development of contract management plans, risk identification and management, regular performance reviews and promoting continuous improvement. |
| **2.** | Monitor key performance indicators and manage performance data. This will include developing and producing regular reports, interpreting contractual information and determining whether remedial measures are required escalating to senior managers as required. |
| **3.** | Ensure budgetary compliance. This will include: that payments are made to suppliers and providers in line with the contract; making sure payment processes are well defined and efficient; and that appropriate checks and authorisation processes are in place for paying invoices. |
| **4.** | A key aspect of the role will be relationship management. The post holder will develop strong relationships with internal stakeholders and external suppliers and providers. This will involve regular formal and informal communication to ensure clear expectations of contracts, minimise the escalation of minor problems and ensure responsibilities of both the Council and suppliers/providers are clear. |
| **5.** | The post holder will be responsible for ensuring that contract variations are well managed, follow clear processes and are managed fairly and effectively. This will include: negotiations regarding fees, and requests for fee increases; delivering cost savings and efficiencies; and ensuring mechanisms, such as benchmarking, are used to achieve value for money. |
| **6.** | The post holder will support Commissioning staff to develop market intelligence to maintain and increase understanding of the market, including emerging best practice and technology and identifying new opportunities and innovative solutions to the needs of Adult and Children’s services. |

*Within reason these key deliverables may evolve to meet service need and it is expected that you will be flexible and adaptable in your delivery to meet both service and council wide needs*

**Essential Requirements (key skills & qualifications)**

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| **1.** | Educated to degree level or equivalent. |
| **2.** | Experience, knowledge and understanding of the contract management process. |
| **3.** | Experience, knowledge and understanding of the adult and children’s social care provider market. |
| **4.** | Experience of working/negotiating with providers/suppliers, voluntary sector and partner agencies e.g. NHS organisations. |
| **5.** | Experience, knowledge and understanding of performance management, risk management and monitoring and evaluation. |



Job Family

Professional/Technical

Grade H

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| **Colleagues expectations**   * Be professional at all times * Work together for the good of the team, council and local people * Promote a supportive culture * Challenge assumptions * Take ownership * Be willing to change and do things differently * Always work in a safe manner | **Managers expectations**   * Be a role model by displaying positive behaviours at all times * Make well-considered decisions * Support, coach and communicate with my team * Be accountable for my team’s performance |

Professional/Technical job holders rely upon their deep knowledge of the specialism or discipline in which they work to carry out vital tasks and provide authoritative advice to others. Often developing within recognised career paths, their evolving expertise sees them bear increasing responsibility for managing Council assets, the development of policies and procedures and the strategic direction of the functions they support.

### Role characteristics

At this level roles will have many day-to-day professional, technical and management issues to deal with but must also take a longer-term view of the service sector they support, assessing its changing needs and demands and making significant contributions to resource planning. This will see job holders dealing with serious issues without recourse to managers and making autonomous decisions based upon their specialist knowledge and dedicated experience.

### The knowledge and skills required

The broad knowledge requirement needed to deal with the technical and business challenges of roles is usually underpinned by an appreciation of the theoretical basis of the particular discipline such that job holders can fall back on the first principles of their specialism to make decisions and offer advice.

This level of knowledge is often indicated by the need for a degree level education in the relevant field, but for some roles this is substituted by a significant level of on the job training and focussed experience such that the level of expertise confers a similar level of authority.

While the majority of roles will have demands for manual dexterity in relation to typing and similar functions, other jobs at this level will use a range of equipment requiring precision in their use and handling.

### Thinking, planning and communication

Job holders will use their professional expertise to deal with complex, pressing issues on a day to day basis, but will also look well ahead and take a more strategic view of their project and service delivery objectives, shaping their teams’ composition, approach and operating procedures in accordance with wider service goals mandated by Service management.

At this level, the information exchanged with internal and external colleagues, and members of the public will call for developed communication skills on the part of the job holders. Matters will be technically complicated, requiring careful explanation, or sensitive, requiring significant listening skills to interpret information and provide appropriate advice.

**Decision making and innovation**

Job holders will have the freedom to interpret policy and broad operating guidelines in order to shape their teams’ detailed approach to meeting their corporate objectives and targets. They will deal with escalated, multi-faceted problems independently and will tend to only consult their manager on fundamental policy or resource issues.

### Areas of responsibility

With a diverse range of jobs being represented at this level, the precise blend of responsibilities for which the job holder is accountable will depend upon the service in which they operate.

External facing roles will focus on the needs of people, whether external service users or partners and will be responsible for high impact decision making and the implementation of appropriate programmes on behalf of individuals or groups of people or enforcement of regulations which have direct and significant consequences upon those served. Such roles are likely to have at least one other elevated level of responsibility for such elements as finance, information assets, equipment or premises.

Internal roles are likely to have this pattern reversed, with the weightiest responsibility for highly valuable or significant financial and non-financial assets, but somewhat less accountability for the assessment of needs of individuals and groups.

Jobs will generally have formal line management responsibility and will not only allocate and check work, but also be directly involved in assessment, recruitment, and other human resource related procedures. Posts that do not have this level of managerial responsibility are likely to have compensatory levels of accountability in relation to the users of Council services, finance or other major asset(s).

### Impacts and demands

Tasks and duties will be generally carried out in a sedentary position but there will always be a requirement for standing and walking from time to time, and the occasional need to lift or carry items.

The combination of both tactical and strategic matters that job holders deal with means that roles are inherently complex, demanding of lengthy periods of concentrated mental attention while also managing high levels of work-related pressure.

Duties of jobs at this level will not require job holders to develop and maintain working relationships with people who, through their circumstances or behaviour, place particular emotional demands on the job holder.

Job holders find themselves exposed to some disagreeable, unpleasant or hazardous working conditions. Particularly when the needs of their specialism require them to work on external sites exposed to the weather, in or around refuse and waste plant, close to particularly noisy machinery and in similar environments.

Other jobs, such as enforcement roles, may also see job holders exposed to verbal abuse and threatening environments. In all cases, job holders will minimise risk and conform to health and safety regulations to mitigate any negative effects of such exposure.