

Northumberland Council
JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title: Senior Procurement Specialist		Director/Service/Sector Procurement Shared Service		Office Use
Grade: 10		Workplace: County Hall		JE ref: 2964 HRMS ref:
Responsible to: Procurement Relationship Manager		Date: August 2014	Manager Level:	
Job Purpose: The primary objective of this role will be to work simultaneously across multiple stakeholder organisations (NHS and LA) providing specialist procurement and commercial advice and guidance, and to lead a team of procurement specialists undertaking procurement activity to deliver the cost reduction programmes/commercial programmes within each of the stakeholders organisations.				
Resources	Staff	Line Management responsibility for 2 – 4 FTE Procurement specialists and Procurement Officers across multiple sites and organisations (NHS and Local Authority).		
	Finance	Significant influence on external 3 rd party spend across the stakeholder organisations within allocated portfolio of spend (circ £150M). Direct accountability for achieving savings targeted against the largest areas of organisation non-pay expenditure.		
	Physical	Maintains significant corporate databases that are commercially sensitive across multiple organisations.		
	Clients	Regular contact and productive relationships with Senior Mangers, Operational Managers, and Clinicians across the stakeholder organisations, with occasional contact with Directors and Elected Members.		
Duties and key result areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To lead the development of productive and influencable relationships with clients in allocated spend areas within the stakeholder organisations, ensuring all business needs and expectations are met or exceeded.2. Provide leadership and direction for focused spend analysis within allocated spend areas to identify procurement and commercial opportunities across stakeholder organisations to ensure consistent contribution to the Procurement and Commercial work programme.3. Support a range of complex procurement projects, including planning and developing procurement/commercial options as required by the stakeholder organisations and ensure timescales and outcomes are delivered.4. Manage a multiple number of long term procurement projects at the same time and involving the interpretation of highly complex and varied sources of quantitative and qualitative information. Each project is expected to carry a high level of financial and/or service risk to the stakeholder organisation, and will require active management to meet tight deadlines.5. As a senior position with the team, post holder is expected, with little guidance, to work across a broad area of activity and translate skills and expertise to different and new areas or activity.6. Lead and co-ordinate the development of complex generic specifications, between stakeholders for equipment and services, to ensure commercial outcomes are achieved through collaboration where possible. Due to the senior nature of the role; this will involve a wide level of discretion and with minimal managerial support.7. Lead a range of strategic and or problematic key supplier/provider reviews with stakeholder contract managers.8. Introduce, promote, co-ordinate and chair spend review groups within allocated spend areas (across stakeholder organisations where possible) to support the identification of procurement and commercial opportunities for cost reduction or income generation.9. Day to day performance management,supervision and development of a team of procurement specialists to ensure the forecast outcomes of the Procurement and Commercial work programme are consistently delivered within agreed timescales.				

10. To support the Procurement Relationship Manager in complex negotiations on a range of differing types and value of contracts in sometimes challenging, conflicting and sensitive environments, including pricing structures, performance mechanisms, commercial transfer issues, conditions of sale and warranties.
11. To represent the Shared Procurement Service and clearly, concisely and confidently present issues and recommendations to groups of Senior Managers/Clinicians within the stakeholder organisations and externally to key suppliers, providers, contractors and other partners.
12. Requirement to work in an integrated management style across multiple organisations with often different customs and practices, and will be required to foster close and effective working relationships with other senior managers across these organisations.
13. To provide consistent, legally compliant and often complex procurement and commercial advice and guidance to the senior managers, operational managers and clinicians in the Stakeholder organisations to assist decision making. This will require taking into account the policies of all stakeholder organisations, as well as European guidelines for public procurement.
14. To support the change management required to bring together a successful Shared Procurement Team, including motivating and mentoring staff including leading by example, and encouraging staff development.
15. Participate in relevant internal and external working groups/projects, services and initiatives to provide project information and specialist procurement and commercial advice/expertise to the different Shared Service stakeholders.
16. Attend regional meetings and be the nominated lead for the Procurement Shared Service in regional or national procurement forums as required.
17. Ensure all procurement documentation is completed and approved within the required timescales and to the required standard.
18. Production of key performance indicators in allocated area of spend and responsibility.
19. To assist in the recruitment and selection of the Procurement Specialists.
20. To work on their own initiative as required, taking direction from the Procurement Relationship Manager.
21. To deputise for the Procurement Relationship Manager as required.

The duties and responsibilities highlighted in this Job Description are indicative and may vary over time. Post holders are expected to undertake other duties and responsibilities relevant to the nature, level and extent of the post and the grade has been established on this basis.

Work Arrangements

Transport requirements: Working patterns: Working conditions:	Frequent car use across the region – full valid driving licence and access to a car is required. Regional and National travel on occasions Flexible and occasional out of hours work required A primary sedentary office based position with little exposure to unpleasant or disagreeable working conditions
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PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post Title: Senior Procurement Specialist		Director/Service/Sector Shared Procurement Services	Ref: 2964
Essential	Desirable		Assess by
Knowledge and Qualifications			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First degree or equivalent standard of education• Relevant professional qualification (CIPS)• Extensive specialist working knowledge and understanding of relevant public sector procurement legislations, regulations and professional best practice• Knowledge and understanding of current public sector procurement issues and challenges across a range of organisation type i.e NHS and Local Government• Commercially aware and understands the relationship between costs and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of recent continuing professional development• Project Management		
Experience			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive, high level experience in procurement,• Extensive experience in a specialist procurement position including managing a team• Demonstrated track record of successful delivery/contribution to a procurement and commercial work programmes for the purposes of delivering cost reduction and/or income generation• Experience of managing high value complex projects with multiple stakeholders or at a regional level• Experience of leading or supporting change management within the procurement field• Experience of working in challenging complex environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience of working in a shared service environment and/or providing services to other organisations		
Skills and competencies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong track record of delivery of commercial cost improvement initiatives with a strong understanding of the constraints of the public sector.• Exercises judgement in complex situations, making judgements as an “expert in field”• Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to adapt to the a wide ranging audience, including non-specialist			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and receive complex, sensitive and sometimes contentious information, and be able to present this type of information to project teams to aid decision making. • Ability to lead by example and drive team delivery by robust performance management, sharing of knowledge and role modelling effective commercial behaviours • Solution focused with the ability to respond to sudden unexpected demands and to translate information to an appropriate level and recommend courses of action • Strong planning skills, using available information sources, and with the ability to understand and work to tight and regular conflicting deadlines • Ability to deliver results through using a range of levers in the absence of direct line management responsibility 		
Physical, mental and emotional demands		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional unsocial hours and travel requirements • Prolonged periods of enhanced concentration i.e. data analysis and specification evaluations • Able to prioritise and regularly meet challenging and often conflicting deadlines • Work under pressure within a consistently changing environment • Actively participate and lead change management by example • Able to relate to people at all levels in the various stakeholder organisation • Ability to deal with problematic phone calls and one to one meetings from suppliers and clients 		
Other		
<p>The ability, personality and conduct which demonstrates credibility, and trust that engages confidence to colleagues, the Shared Service Stakeholders and external partners</p> <p>Ability to calm, empathise and negotiate with colleagues, staff and external suppliers/providers to the stakeholder organisations</p>		

Key to assessment methods; (a) application form, (i) interview, (r) references, (t) ability tests (q) personality questionnaire (g) assessed group work, (p) presentation, (o) others e.g. case studies/visits