

Northumberland County Council

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title: Technical Officer (environmental & housing protection)	Director/Service/Sector Public Health & Protection Public Protection / Public Health Protection Unit		Office Use
Grade: Band 6	Workplace: Public Protection Area Office		JE ref: 2393 HRMS ref:
Responsible to: Team Leader	Date: March 2012	Manager Level:	
Job Purpose: To operate over a specific technical area of work activities and deal with the requests for service arising in that field. To be responsible for carrying out day to day work activities of that section and ensure necessary actions are taken to achieve the objectives of the area team and service.			
Resources	Staff	Some posts supervisory responsibility for a technical or support staff member providing area wide services. Occasional.	
	Finance	Shared responsibility for spending of allocated services budgets, fee generation and collection in some areas.	
	Physical	Technical equipment associated with work area. Maintain premises databases, records and reports for work area. Lease car, vehicle.	
	Clients	The public, businesses, industry, elected members, local and national government bodies, professional Institutions and support organisations, Parish & Town Councils	
Duties and key result areas:			
To discharge the Council's responsibilities under environmental protection and housing standards legislation, through the inspection or sampling of products or premises, interpretation of compliance with legal requirements, utilising relevant good practice guidance.			
To survey, assess & sample private water supplies and private distribution systems in accordance with legislative requirements and good practice guidance. To carry out relevant enforcement actions for non-compliance.			
Conduct investigations of incidents, persons, premises or activities as required for the specific service area.			
To respond to all requests for service in an efficient and effective manner carrying out the appropriate actions in line with the Public Protection service plan and statutory, legal requirements.			
Implement Council policies and ensure operating procedures and guidance are followed.			
Assist senior staff to provide information and guidance on good practice to encourage compliance and support businesses.			
Maintain all relevant records and statutory registers and assist with the collation of performance statistics.			
To recommend appropriate enforcement actions to senior officers in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy and to assist in the maintenance, collation and delivery of records for court / inquiries / inquest.			
To participate as necessary in emergency actions / response in technical areas outside the normal work area.			
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:	Full driving license required. Travel within and outside of the Area Committee and County area.		
Working patterns:	Flexible hours to ensure duties are fulfilled, including (occasional) evening, night and weekends and Bank Holidays. Lone working. Emergency response.		
Working conditions:			

Office, outside, inspecting industrial and commercial premises, farms, private residences, filthy and verminous premises, rodent infestations, choked drains and sewers and other public health hazards.

**Northumberland County Council
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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Essential	Desirable	Assess by
Knowledge and Qualifications		
A good standard of general education demonstrating good levels of numeracy and literacy. Qualified to A level standard or equivalent in a relevant science subject. Knowledge and understanding of relevant service legislation, best practice and procedures. Demonstrates an awareness and commitment to excellent customer care and service provision.	Thorough knowledge and understanding of relevant service legislation, best practice and contemporary issues, and theoretical background in the areas of environmental & housing protection. HHSRS certified. Certificate in environmental noise measurement (IOA) or equivalent. Degree level or equivalent standard in a relevant discipline. Evidence of continual professional development in a related area.	a,i,o (cert)
Experience		
Recent and relevant professional experience related to the post. Experience of working with equipment, tools relevant to the technical area Experience of working with other professional and technical officers or support staff. Experience of working with both external and internal partners to deliver a statutory service.	Broad range of professional experience in more than one field of Environmental Health. Experience of giving evidence in Court, Inquest or Public Inquiry	a,i,r
Skills and competencies		
Developed: investigative, analytical, interpretive, communicative, educative, organisational and attitudinal skills. Ability to prepare written reports that communicate scientific information to a wide range of audiences. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with a wide range of audiences within the workplace and the professional work area. Good Keyboard & IT skills and competencies appropriate to the work area (for example for writing reports, letters, compiling records, statistics, work plans,	Applied use of communication skills using different media (presentations, written or oral) to a range of audiences (for example members of the public, businesses, elected representatives, professional bodies). Applied use of keyboard and IT skills. CLAIT European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Ability to use relevant technical equipment (for example noise meters & recording equipment) Technical equipment suppliers training.	a,i,r,p,o (cert)

tables, spreadsheets and databases and use of the service's computer management system)		
Physical, mental and emotional demands		
<p>Ability to work in cramped spaces or in awkward positions in the course of inspections, for example looking under equipment, in roof spaces, water supply storage tanks, plant rooms, cellars, examining drainage/sewerage.</p> <p>Prolonged sitting for example at a desk, using a PC or driving.</p> <p>Standing and walking generally and in the course of inspections.</p> <p>Lifting and carrying equipment for example briefcase/inspection bag, water and other samples, cool box, technical equipment.</p> <p>Visual attention for lengthy periods when conducting inspections, driving, during presentations, meetings & training.</p> <p>Close visual attention when examining samples.</p> <p>Organoleptic assessment of odours.</p> <p>Audible assessment of noise.</p> <p>Visual attention and mental concentration for lengthy periods daily when; for example, reading incoming post; compiling and writing reports; using a PC for data entry or writing; reading and digesting legislation, documents, reports, technical advice; and checking work.</p> <p>Mental demands in balancing and prioritising a number of work activities or cases which may be going on simultaneously and with frequent interruptions from work colleagues, staff, members of the public, businesses and others in the form of face to face meetings, telephone calls, emails, personal callers.</p> <p>Mental demands in balancing and prioritising conflicting work demands arising daily from deadlines, unexpected reactive work, demands from government agencies or others, for example, committee reports, the need to respond to an urgent and serious problem e.g. infectious disease notification, water supply failure.</p> <p>Emotional demands in occasionally dealing with individuals in connection with environmental health matters who do not exhibit normal rational behaviour or have personal problems which result in a 'request for service' and are unpredictable, unwillingness to accept alternative points of view or comprehend the implications of their actions.</p> <p>Emotional demands in occasionally dealing with business people, members of the public or others who are angry following enforcement action or notification of intention to prosecute.</p> <p>Emotional demands in occasionally dealing with a severely injured person or relatives of a deceased person as part of an accident investigation or with persons making an official complaint about a Council service or the conduct of staff who may be angry, distressed or disturbed.</p>		a,i,
Other		

Full driving licence Able to undertake evening/night, early morning and/or weekend work occasionally at short notice.		licence
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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