

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Head of Sustainability

National Institute for Health and Care Research



Salary: Level 6 (£51,799 to £65,107)

Permanent

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Head of Sustainability

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is committing to a transformational programme to address carbon reduction and sustainability with implications for our strategies, systems, processes and culture. To support NIHR's approach to net zero and sustainability, we are appointing a new role of NIHR Head of Sustainability to develop and implement this strategically important area of work.

The NIHR is the nation's largest funder of health and care research, spending £1 billion from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on research every year, and this is set to increase as a result of the 2021 Spending Review. As the nation's largest funder of health and care research, the NIHR has a mission to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Climate change is a major challenge to public health in the UK and globally, which risks increasing health inequalities, and the NIHR recognises the key role it must play in driving and promoting 'net zero.'

The NIHR is committed to supporting the NHS in achieving its ambition to become the 'world's first net zero health service' by funding world-class research and innovation, which will help deliver low carbon, sustainable and resilient health and care systems. NIHR's global health research remit will also help improve the health outcomes of people in low and middle income countries affected by climate change.

This is a national post hosted within the NIHR coordinating centre within the School of Healthcare Enterprise and Innovation at the University of Southampton. The NIHR Head of Sustainability is a senior leadership role, with significant experience in this area, who can lead the development of a Net Zero and sustainability strategy and delivery plan for the NIHR. The team will also work with other research funders, Greener NHS, research sponsors and researchers, and others working towards a more sustainable health research system.

The options of hybrid and remote working are available for this role.



What does the Role entail?

As NIHR Head of sustainability your main duties will include:

- To develop and lead the NIHR Sustainability Strategy and its implementation, including a performance framework for monitoring and reporting.
- To provide senior expertise on environmental sustainability across the NIHR, supporting the NIHR Board, Centres Executive Board and other leaders across the NIHR to ensure sustainability underpins delivery of all aspects of NIHR business. To champion carbon efficiency and sustainability and ensure that they are embedded in all of the NIHR's work
- To lead a central NIHR sustainability team and develop an NIHR sustainability network with colleagues in other NIHR Centres and with the DHSC to support implementation and staff engagement.
- To ensure that sustainability management and governance frameworks are fit for purpose and effectively support the NIHR to meet its legal obligations and annual reporting requirements, such as the Greening Government Commitments.
- To develop key alliances and positively engage with external organisations to ensure the NIHR takes account of the external landscape. To enhance the NIHR's reputation, and ensure that NIHR stakeholders are fully involved in helping develop the Sustainability Strategy and its implementation.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As head of sustainability you will have:

- Proven experience of managing significant change in complex organisations.
- Specialist knowledge and proven strategic management skills in developing and implementing organisational carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives.
- Experience of working with and influencing senior people of national standing.
- Able to organise major new initiatives, with little or no precedent.
- Able to proactively develop team dynamics and performance, ensuring quality standards are consistently achieved.



- Able to foster positive relationships both within and outside of own department, and across other organisations operating different governance models
- Able to negotiate effectively on behalf of the department and organisation on key issues.
- Able to engage with stakeholders, in particular members of the public, patients, researchers and evidence users.

What is in it for you?

Whilst this is a national role for NIHR you will be employed by the University of Southampton and be able to access all the benefits that come with working for one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently placed in the top 100 universities in the world by the QS World University Rankings.

We offer a generous package of benefits, including:

- Generous Holiday allowance of 30 days holiday + 8 Bank Holidays + 6 University Closure days.
- Generous Pension Scheme.
- Excellent Family Friendly policies.
- Employee Assistance Programme.
- Salary Sacrifice benefits including: AXA Private Healthcare, BUPA Dental Plan, Cycle scheme.
- Employee discounts scheme.
- Free On-Site Parking at University of Southampton Science Park
- Discounted access to University Sport and Wellbeing facilities.
- Excellent career development and training opportunities.
- A Full list of our benefits can be found [here](#).

The University of Southampton supports flexible working, with hybrid ways of working currently being adopted. The successful candidate will be able to work remotely or in a hybrid way, with some attendance at our offices in Chilworth and other NIHR offices.

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

As a university we aim to create an environment where everyone can thrive and are proactive in fostering a culture of inclusion, respect and equality of opportunity. We believe that we can only truly meet our objectives if we are reflective of society, so we are passionate about creating a working environment in which you are free to bring your whole self to work. We welcome candidates from any and all backgrounds, who are committed to helping us create an inclusive work environment.



Our Values:

Knowledge

Actively building our understanding of the research sector and keeping up to date in our areas of expertise. Sharing and using knowledge to strengthen HEI's research management capability.

Collaboration

Work with others, sharing skills, knowledge and experience, learning from each other, developing trust and contributing to the wider objectives.

Excellence

Identifying and meeting stakeholder expectations, finding creative approaches to deliver to an appropriate and agreed level of quality and in doing so maintaining pride in HEI and our reputation for achievement.

Delivery

Being accountable for fulfilling contractual obligations and promises to stakeholders in a timely, efficient way. Improving ways of working and demonstrating flexibility in our approach to new challenges.

How to apply:

If this sounds like the opportunity for you, then we would love to receive your application.

You should submit your completed online application form at <https://jobs.soton.ac.uk>. The application deadline will be midnight on the 17th July.

Contact information

For further information or an informal discussion about the post, please contact:

Amanda Jones (amanda.jones2@nhr.ac.uk) to arrange a discussion with Elaine Williams, Deputy CEO.

Additional information :

Find out more about the [NIHR](#)

Find out more about [NETSCC](#) at the University of Southampton

Find out more about working with us [here](#)

