

# OBESITY HEALTH ALLIANCE POLICY AND ADVOCACY LEAD



**DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

WELLNESS WALK  
DIABETES UK

DIABETES UK

# WHO WE ARE

**For nearly 5 million people with diabetes in the UK, there's no day off. At Diabetes UK, we fight day in, day out for better care, treatment and support. We won't stop until diabetes can do no harm. With more people than ever living with diabetes and millions more at risk of developing type 2, our work has never been more needed.**

We can't do any of this without you. Our staff are passionate and determined about helping everyone affected by diabetes. For over 85 years, they've been behind vital policy changes, as well as new treatments and technologies to make living with diabetes easier every day. But there's more to do. And you can be part of it.

We're a really diverse bunch and we recognise and respect your value as an individual.

As well as helping people with diabetes, you'll be part of one of the top 30 Best

UK Charities to Work For, and one of the top 75 Best Large Companies in London.

Tackling inequality is part of our mission, and we're committed to being a diverse and inclusive organisation, for all of our people and volunteers. We have a friendly and inclusive culture, with a range of staff networks and ways to get involved. You can find out more about our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion in our strategy here [EDI Strategy Branded version 22 March 2023.pdf](#).

**Our vision is a world where diabetes can do no harm. Join us today, and together, we can make that a reality.**



# JOB DESCRIPTION

Role title: Obesity Health Alliance - Policy and Advocacy Lead

Contract type: Permanent, 2 years (funding secured)

Hours: 0.8-1 FTE

Band: 4 (£47,348-£52,609)

## Key relationships (internal and external):

Internal: OHA Director and Government Affairs Lead, Diabetes UK Policy and Campaigns team, Media and content team.

External: OHA Steering Group, OHA members, Government officials - particularly DHSC, OHID, HMT and No. 10, NHS, academic researchers, funders, wider public health organisations and coalitions.

## Key focus of the role:

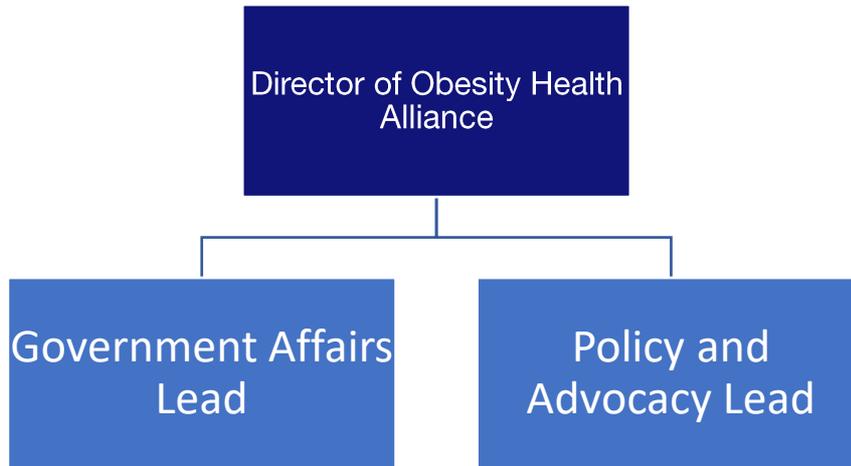
As Policy and Advocacy Lead, you'll shape, direct and communicate OHA's long-term policy, research and advocacy work - from developing detailed evidence-informed public health policies and responding to consultations, to generating creative new evidence that keeps healthy weight high on the political agenda.

You'll work closely with a wide range of external stakeholders, building trusted relationships to ensure the OHA remains a credible, authoritative voice in the policy landscape. You'll also collaborate with alliance members to lead joint policy work and secure the change needed to improve the health of the nation.

## Directorate and team

This role sits in the [Obesity Health Alliance team](#) in the [Policy and Campaigns Directorate](#)

## Department



## Person specification

All jobs at Diabetes UK are based on

- The key activities you'll undertake and
- The skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours you need to be successful in this role

You will be able to:

Develop detailed policy work, and associated advocacy plans, that advance OHA's objectives and respond to a changing political landscape.

Responding to consultations and developing position statements in collaboration with the sector.

Proactively identify opportunities and gaps for creative influencing opportunities.

Work independently, enabling the OHA Director to focus on strategy and sector leadership and the Government Affairs Lead to focus on public affairs.

Represent OHA confidently and clearly at external meetings, public forums, and sector events.

Lead our Obesity Policy Research Forum, bringing together academics and partner organisations to use research in advocacy for influencing specific Government policies

You will have experience in:

Progressing policy and advocacy work in a health context, at either local or national level.

Managing multiple projects simultaneously, ensuring timely delivery and effective reporting.

Facilitating collaborative policy development processes and building consensus among stakeholders using a range of communication techniques.

Working with, or within, government, NGOs, or academic institutions on health-related issues.

Partnering with external researchers to plan, oversee, and disseminate advocacy-focused research.

You will have skills in:

Demonstrating a strong understanding of public health policy, including the commercial determinants of health and nutrition.

Developing and communicating policy positions clearly, persuasively, and accessibly.

Matrix-managing within a multidisciplinary team and aligning diverse stakeholders around shared goals.

Rapidly assessing political developments and developing responses.

Applying research and advocacy skills to support evidence-informed policy development.

You will have knowledge:

UK health policy and the wider determinants of health, with a particular focus on how nutrition and diet impact health inequalities.

The policy-making process and effective strategies for influencing it.

Public health evidence and how to translate it into actionable policy recommendations.

The role of communications - including digital and social media - in policy influence and campaigning.

Research and advocacy approaches that support evidence-based policy change

The best person for this job will be (behaviours):

- Strategic and creative with strong policy development skills
- Politically aware and able to navigate and influence within a complex, fast-moving landscape.
- Self-motivated, with a collaborative approach, delivering on commitments and contributing positively as a team player.
- Clearly committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, and to tackling health inequalities — with the courage and confidence to support and challenge others to grow in these areas.
- A champion of equity, inclusion, using non-stigmatising language, and evidence-led approaches in all areas of public health.
- Proactive and flexible, thriving in a fast-paced and evolving environment, and contributing confidently as part of a small team.
- Curious about the wider context, using evidence and reality to shape future work.

- Motivated by a commitment to achieving meaningful, lasting change in population health.

Qualifications/professional membership (if applicable):

Registered Nutritionist/Public Health Nutritionist with the Association for Nutrition (not essential)

Diabetes UK is committed to fundraise in a way that is legal, open, honest and respectful and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and you will be expected to adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

# BENEFITS

We know you do more than just work. And that means you might be a parent, carer, friend, volunteer or partner.

We want to make sure that we can help you create a good balance between work and the other parts of your life.

And one way we do that is with benefits we offer you.



## Annual leave

We want you to make sure you get time off to rest and relax. So, all full-time permanent employees get 25 days off a year, with bank holidays on top of this.



## Connected working

We have adopted a 'connected working' way of working. This means that, for most roles, you are not required to work in an office location every day.



## Pension

We enrol everyone into our pension and all new colleagues joining us will get information on the pension scheme. We make an employer contribution of at least 5%.



## Healthcare

Our cash healthcare plan that allows you to claim back the cost of regular health appointments and treatment, like the dentist and optician.



## Learning and development

We help you to continually develop and achieve your career goals, including offering a wide range of training which happens throughout the year.



## Gym membership

We have a gym membership discount scheme through our cash healthcare plan provider. You can use this at a wide variety of gyms around the UK.



### Our Networks

A range of active and supportive colleague networks such as the Pride network, Global Majority network and Women's network.



### Early finish Friday

Early finish Friday and flexible working as part of our approach to activity-based working (not applicable to roles with fixed shift patterns).



### Employee assistance programme

Employee assistance programme to give you support on any issues that come up in life.



### Annual season ticket loan

Annual season ticket loan\* (on completion of your probation period and if contract is permanent or longer than 12 months).



### Cycle to work scheme

Cycle to work scheme.

## Get in touch

Email [recruitment@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@diabetes.org.uk)

Call **0345 123 2399**

Visit [diabetes.org.uk](https://diabetes.org.uk)

Search **Diabetes UK** on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

