

Job Title	Policy Researcher (children and young people's mental health and wellbeing)
Salary	£35262
Grade	D 2
Type	Permanent
Hour of work:	40 hours per week (1.0 FTE)
Place of work:	London. Hybrid
Responsible to	Head of Policy
Purpose of the job	<p>To gather evidence, analyse data and develop policy solutions to build robust and compelling cases to secure support for change and improvements for children and young people. This will have a particular focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>To lead our national high profile campaigns to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Subject to funding, this role will also be tasked with coordinating the Future Minds campaign for improving children and young people's mental health support.</p>
Specific duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting qualitative and quantitative research for a range of projects with a particular focus on improving children and young people's mental health. • Project managing research activities, including arranging roundtables, evidence sessions, visits and other events. • Researching, drafting and disseminating high quality evidence submissions, policy reports and briefings. • Working closely with the Head of Policy to develop and implement influencing strategies to secure tangible policy change. • Serving as the Future Minds campaign lead, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Building strong partnerships across the mental health and children's sector to establish a unified voice on children and young people's mental health in national campaigns; ◦ Project managing the campaign, ensuring progress on key milestones, with relevant input and sign off from campaign members; ◦ Coordinating and supporting regular meetings and communication across partners; ◦ Coordinating briefings, reports, papers and other publications on behalf of the campaign; ◦ Supporting the organisation of events including in Parliament and at Party conferences. Building and maintaining effective relationships with stakeholders across the children and young people's policy arena, including with the children's and

	<p>health sectors, think tanks, Parliamentarians, advisors and officials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring children and young people's voices are embedded in the Centre for Young Lives' policy work. Representing the Centre for Young Lives externally with a range of stakeholders across Westminster and Whitehall. Developing and maintaining a strong understanding of the policy and political landscape, and of the issues facing children and young people aged 0-25. Serving as the Centre for Young Lives resident expert on children and young people's mental health and health systems.
Person Specification	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong research and policy development skills, with proven ability to critically analyse evidence and deliver persuasive arguments for change. Experience in qualitative and quantitative research for social policy, and knowledge of children and young people's mental health policy. Highly organised, able to manage complex projects, prioritise tasks, and work both independently and collaboratively. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, able to turn complex information into clear messages for diverse audiences. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience leading sector-wide coalitions and coordinating cross-organisation activities. Track record of contributing to evidence-driven research and influencing health policy stakeholders. Event management experience (seminars, launches, networks).
Date	Dec 2025

	Essential	Desirable
Research and policy development	Proven experience and ability to critically appraise and analyse policy and technical evidence at pace to deliver robust and persuasive arguments for change.	
	Excellent research and data analytical skills, with experience in qualitative and quantitative research for social policy	
	Proven knowledge and experience of children and young people's mental health policy and experience in devising solutions and effectively influencing health policy stakeholders.	
	A good understanding of policy making and development with a track record of contributing to high quality, evidence driven research.	
Organisation Skills	Highly organised with good attention to detail.	Experience of leading sector-wide coalitions and coordinating cross-organisation activities to deadlines
	A strong ability to work on your own initiative and with a team.	
	Proven ability to manage complex policy projects and to prioritise and manage own time to achieve objectives and deadlines.	Experience of event management e.g. organising seminars, report launches and/or member networks
Communication skills	Strong ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally with a range of audiences. Able to turn complex information into clear messages.	
	Strong proofreading and editing skills.	
Interpersonal Skills	Experience of building successful relationships with decision makers including with Parliamentarians, officials and	

	<p>other stakeholders in Westminster and Whitehall.</p> <p>Proven ability to work collaboratively with cross-sector stakeholders to achieve joint aims.</p>	
•	<p>High level of computer literacy and familiarity with Microsoft Office packages.</p>	
	<p>Proven ability to work flexibly as part of a small team.</p>	
	<p>Passionate about improving the lives of children and young people with poor mental health.</p>	