

Job Description

Job title: Head of Policy (Acute Care)
Salary: £58,500 – £62,000 per annum plus pension and private medical insurance
Contract: Permanent
Location: London
Start date: ASAP but flexible depending on candidate

Nature and scope

IHPN is the trade association and membership network for independent healthcare providers. We play a leading role in the sector by bringing all types of independent providers together, supporting them to deliver great care to patients, and enabling them to make a positive contribution to UK healthcare. Our vision is for a thriving independent healthcare sector delivering great care to NHS and private patients.

Our members deliver a diverse range of services to NHS and private patients including acute care, primary care, community care, clinical home healthcare, mental health, neurodevelopmental assessments, and diagnostics across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. IHPN's work programme covers a similarly diverse range of topics from: supporting providers to achieve net zero; working on the contribution of the independent sector to NHS services; understanding the impact of key legislation such as the Employment Rights Act; developing a sector wide approach to share and learn from patient safety incidents; supporting the development of medical governance oversight frameworks; and much more. IHPN is both output and delivery focused, and our policy work reflects this.

Purpose

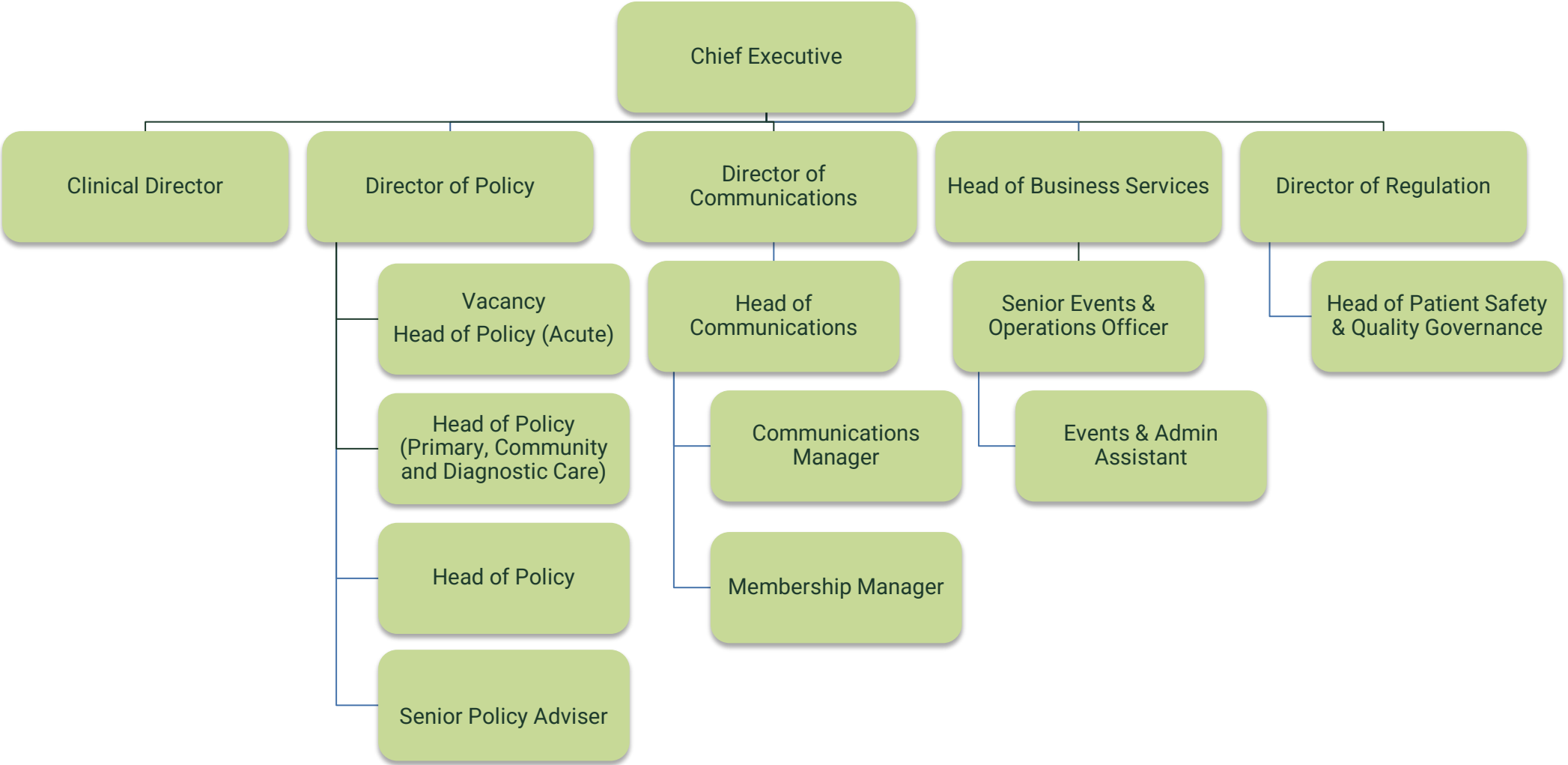
The Head of Policy (Acute Care) is a senior role within the IHPN team, reporting to the Director of Policy. The Head of Policy (Acute Care) will lead a strategic and impactful programme of work to shape the policy environment for IHPN members delivering acute care, both outpatient and inpatient. This programme will be aimed at successfully influencing the external environment and ensuring that IHPN members are able to maximise opportunities to deliver high-quality services.

The postholder will lead on IHPN's work on NHS commissioning structures and frameworks, Patient Choice, and the NHS payment system. IHPN members also deliver a full range of privately funded acute services. A key part of this role will be to identify and develop opportunities for policy formation and influence in private care.

The postholder will develop relationships at senior level with IHPN members delivering acute services, and in relation to other key elements of the broader policy work programme and will work to ensure that they have high levels of satisfaction with their IHPN membership. They will also develop professional networks with key stakeholders including senior representatives at NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, key health think tanks and others as appropriate.

In collaboration with the Director of Policy, Director of Regulation, Director of Communication, the post holder will also contribute to the broader IHPN policy offer to all members.

Structure chart



Accountabilities

- Contribute to the development of a set of business plan policy objectives for IHPN's acute care members, ophthalmology and insourcing members and take responsibility for delivery.
- Keep abreast of policy developments of relevance to IHPN's acute, ophthalmology, and insourcing members, and ensure that these are shared with members as appropriate.
- Work with IHPN's Comms team to develop an active influencing programme for IHPN's acute members including with government, regulators, national NHS bodies and Parliamentarians.
- Lead IHPN's sector groups for acute, ophthalmology, and insourcing including setting agendas, securing external speakers, and ensuring that meetings deliver good value for members.
- Lead IHPN's work on NHS commissioning and contracting, the NHS payment system, and Patient Choice.
- Identify opportunities for policy events to bring members together and to influence the external agenda.
- Develop data and insight for IHPN drawn from external sources or members' directly and influence the external data and information.
- Working with the Director of Policy to build senior level connections with all acute, ophthalmology, and insourcing members, and look for opportunities to grow the members from this part of the market.
- Act as an external ambassador for IHPN with other members, including by developing relationships with senior decision makers in the NHS and broader sector.
- Continually improve knowledge and understanding of the sector.
- Commission and manage external contractors as appropriate.
- Contribute to other aspects of IHPN's work as a senior member of the policy team and work across all IHPN teams where necessary or required.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Essential

- Knowledge of NHS commissioning, finance, and contracting policy, as well as a good working understanding of the private pay market.
- Excellent influencing skills that can be deployed with a variety of key stakeholders.
- Excellent policy research and analysis skills that cut through complexity and provide insight, with the ability to write accessible and compelling policy narratives informed by member/stakeholder views, evidence and best practice.
- Extensive skill and experience in both research and analysing data to understand key insights.
- Excellent attention to detail, a methodical approach, and able to consistently deliver high-quality outputs.
- Able to demonstrate strong customer service and interpersonal skills, gaining the respect and confidence of internal and external stakeholders.
- Be able to work collaboratively and build strong cross-organisational relationships within a multidisciplinary team and to deliver independently when needed.
- Flexible and agile in a rapidly changing environment.
- Effective facilitation and collaboration, using relevant tools and technology, online and face-to-face.
- Previous experience of working in public policy, healthcare and/or a membership organisation or trade association environment
- Excellent IT skills along with project delivery experience.

Desirable

Educated to degree level.

We have provided an outline of the essential and desirable criteria for this role below. However, it is more important to us to find the right person with the right mindset than someone with a very specific set of previous experiences. So, we would really encourage you to apply or get in touch for a conversation if you:

- Are you a people-person, interested in putting your people skills into action with members and stakeholders.
- Have a can-do attitude that enjoys getting on and delivering.
- Enjoy working as part of a team and able to lead when needed.
- Work in line with IHPN team values including proactivity, integrity, and putting members first.