

Head of Policy Delivery (AHL)- 2yr FTC

About Nesta

We are Nesta, the UK's innovation agency for social good. We design, test and scale solutions to society's biggest problems. Our three missions are to give every child a fair start, help people live healthy lives, and create a sustainable future where the economy works for both people and the planet.

For over 20 years, we have worked to support, encourage and inspire innovation. We work in three roles: as an innovation partner working with frontline organisations to design and test new solutions, as a venture builder supporting new and early stage businesses, and as a system shaper creating the conditions for innovation.

Harnessing the rigour of science and the creativity of design, we work relentlessly to change millions of lives for the better. Find out more at [nesta.org.uk](https://www.nesta.org.uk).

Whatever it takes

Everyone works at Nesta because we are driven by a deep commitment to our missions. A guiding principle of our culture is that we do whatever it takes to achieve them, bringing our best to all our work.

About A Healthy Life Mission

We want to increase the number of years lived in good health for all. We are focusing on tackling one of the biggest drivers of lost years of healthy life: obesity. Our primary focus currently is on improving our food environments i.e. making healthy food more available, accessible, affordable, appealing and convenient for all. We work across sectors - with businesses, national policymakers, local government, academics and other charities - in order to drive the changes we need to see to improve health.

The role

The Head of Policy Implementation (A Healthy Life) will lead a programme of work looking at how to best implement a Healthy food standard for large food businesses in this parliament. This [policy was announced by the UK Government](#) and is based on a Nesta policy proposal for [health targets for supermarkets](#). It has the potential to reduce national obesity rates by up to 20%.

The role holder will be responsible for ensuring the Healthy Food Standard is implemented by Government in the most effective way. They will work closely with the mission leadership team on a portfolio of interlinked projects all aiming to ensure the Healthy Food Standard is implemented, working at pace and balancing competing priorities. They will collaborate with both internal and external partners

across a range of disciplines including policy, communications, design, data science, behavioural science and research expertise.

They will be motivated by and passionate about reaching the team's ambitious mission goal of halving obesity and improving the lives of millions.

Your responsibilities will include:

- Leading delivery of a high priority programme of work, consisting of multiple concurrent projects, over the next two years to maximise the potential impact of the announced healthy food standards on obesity. This will cover both mandatory reporting and targets for large food businesses.
- Reporting to the CEO and mission leadership on progress, briefing them on issues, and bringing them in where appropriate to help delivery.
- Building relationships and working in partnership at pace with government, NGOs and industry to push for consensus and deliver results.
- Making connections and spotting opportunities for the wider work of the healthy life mission, and how Nesta can contribute to successful implementation of policy.
- Directly line managing up to three team members, with responsibility for personal and professional development and additionally supporting a wider group of staff who are contributing to the programme.
- Developing new project ideas that aim to drive forward the Healthy Food Standard with input from people inside and outside Nesta and building relationships and partnerships to deliver them.
- Taking decisions and providing recommendations on whether projects within the Healthy Food Standard portfolio should start, stop, continue, scale up (seeking input from others to help you do so.)
- Identifying key stakeholders and building relationships that help open up opportunities for Nesta and increase the likelihood of successful delivery.
- Acting as a spokesperson for the mission and proactively seeking opportunities to the mission's profile, particularly in relation to the policy implementation.

The Person

- Government experience: A proven track record of working with government and delivering high impact projects and programmes using innovation methods and/or multidisciplinary approach.
- Policy development and delivery: A strong understanding of how policy is designed and delivered in practice, including the stages of policy development within Government and Parliament. Ideally with experience of

working closely to implement a previous policy from ideation through delivery.

- Stakeholder management skills: you can present ideas persuasively and navigate complex stakeholder discussion to keep focussed on impact. You build strong working relationships and can persuade people to be supporters of your ideas and projects. You drive better work through including more voices in the planning, designing, delivery and criticism of it.
- Strong critical thinking and analytical skills: you have the ability to draw out key insights from often complex or incomplete information. You are happy getting into the technical detail or regulation and interpreting analysis of large data sets.
- Programme management skills: you can oversee a complex portfolio of interlinking projects. You proactively plan work, manage a team to execute against the plan, identify and act on risks and issues, ensure that key stakeholders are engaged throughout, and keep track of spend against budget. You can motivate and manage a team to effectively deliver their projects and milestones.
- Creativity and quick learning: You are open to new ways of working and thinking and bring an open mindedness and intellectual curiosity to your work and to the team. You can quickly pick up information on new topics or areas. You are able to switch modes effectively and sensitively, knowing when to open up a conversation with bold and unusual ideas and when to narrow it down to generate focus and momentum.

What we offer

Salary: £77,500 - £87,700 plus array of benefits, including private medical insurance, dental insurance, the ability to buy and sell annual leave, eyecare vouchers and more

Location: This role is based in Blackfriars, London, hybrid working arrangement with a minimum of two days in the office

Term: 2 year fixed term contract

Hours: This is a full-time role but we offer a range of flexible working arrangements and encourage our people to take advantage of them. Many do.

At Nesta, we believe that a diverse workforce leads to an organisation that is more innovative, more creative and gets better results.

We want our workforce to represent the diversity of the people and communities we serve. We also want our workplace to be one where different experiences, expertise and perspectives are valued, and where everyone is encouraged to grow and develop.

This means that when we are recruiting, we actively seek to reach a diverse pool of candidates. It also means that we are happy to consider any reasonable adjustments that potential employees may need to in order to be successful.

We recognise the importance of a good balance between work and home life, so we do everything we can to accommodate flexible working, including working from home, compressed or part-time hours, job shares and other arrangements.

Please just let us know in your application or at any stage throughout the process (and beyond) if these are options you'd like to explore.