



Early Years Health Lead

Job Description

Division	Programme areas
Team	N/A
Reports to	Scotland Director
Direct Reports	None
Key relationships	Internal: Early Years Education Lead, Scotland Director, Parent Outreach & Engagement Lead, Parent Connectors, Learning & Impact team. External: Local health professionals such as health visitors, midwives and GPs
Working location	Community based – this role is both community-based in West Dunbartonshire, with the ability to work from home as agreed with your manager. There may also be occasional travel to other programme sites (currently Stoke-on-Trent, Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Scotland) or travel to our London or Edinburgh offices.
Competency Framework level	3
Date Prepared	June 2026

Thrive at Five Introduction

Thrive at Five's vision is a society where every child can thrive and achieve their potential. Our mission is to help children develop strong foundations for life and learning, in and alongside communities where families face the most challenges.

We work in Stoke-on-Trent, Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough and are excited to be starting our first programme in Scotland, partnering with West Dunbartonshire Council to join up and strengthen early years systems so children can thrive from pregnancy to five.

Our goal, everywhere we work, is to achieve long-term, sustained improvements in children's developmental outcomes. In England, one of the ways we measure this is through the proportion of children reaching a Good Level of Development by age five. In Scotland, we will be measuring impact through the health visitor data at 4-5 years and 27-30 months, alongside other robust indicators.

Our work is rooted in place and built on long-term partnership. We commit to working with and for communities to build trust, embed change and support sustainable improvement. Alongside delivery, we capture learning from each place to develop a practical, experience-informed playbook that supports wider system improvement.

Purpose of the role

The Early Years Health Lead will work primarily with local health professionals such as health visitors, midwives, perinatal infant mental health teams and GPs to ensure that the potential for children to reach positive developmental outcomes is maximised. This role will lead the process to co-design workstreams to enable the high-quality implementation of evidence-based interventions with our partners, as well support the evaluation of these in collaboration with the Learning & Impact team.

Key accountabilities

Relationship building

- Support the Scotland Director in building excellent relationships with key decision makers related to the early years and maintaining these relationships to ensure we can deliver successful and impactful partnerships.

- Work with key external stakeholders to create understanding and buy in to Thrive at Five's vision including understanding of our model and workstreams.
- Work in partnership with health professionals to build strong and trusting relationships through regular meetings with key stakeholders.
- Build, manage and sustain working groups to ensure local stakeholders are empowered to fully participate in and take co-ownership of workstreams developed in partnership with Thrive at Five.
- Ensure that working groups include representation from all parts of the health system.
- Act as an ambassador for Thrive at Five at local, regional and national events.

Designing and supporting the implementation of workstreams

- Work in partnership with key stakeholders within health settings to co-design sustainable workstreams which support better outcomes for children.
- Ensure workstreams reflect insights from the discovery phase, using Thrive at Five's playbook to support this process while taking into account local context and what is already being delivered.
- Work in collaboration with key stakeholders to support high quality implementation and evaluation of these workstreams, including working closely with the Learning & Impact team to ensure data and lessons learned from evaluation are used to further improve practice.
- Support the Scotland Director and local stakeholders to strengthen local practice across settings, helping to bring in relevant external expertise to ensure local best practice is shared.

Strategy and implementation

- Support the Scotland Director to collaborate with Central teams and ensure strategy, implementation and evaluation plans are developed for all workstreams, ensuring relevant sign off processes are followed.

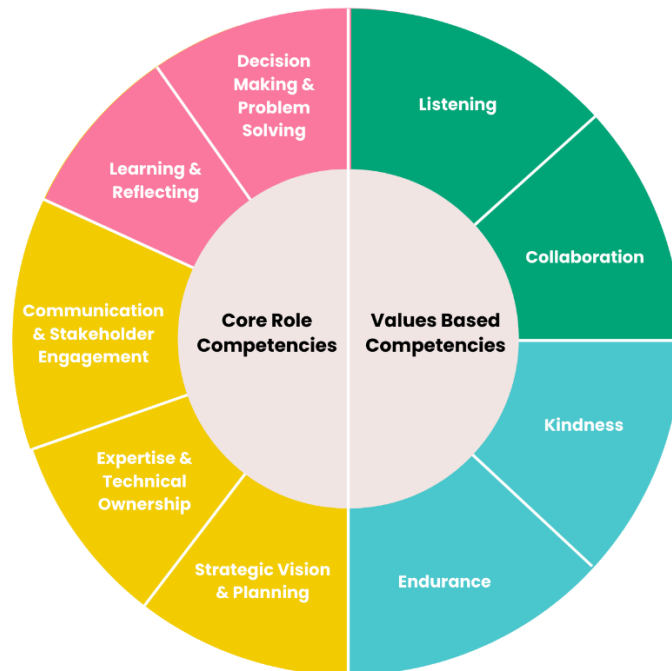
- Contribute to the ongoing development of the Thrive at Five Playbook, sharing lessons learned, including challenges encountered.

Policies, Procedures and Compliance

- Be familiar with, and comply with all organisational policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Promote and support initiatives that contribute to a healthy and safe working environment for all employees, contractors and visitors.
- Ensure compliance with Health and Safety policies and legislative requirements.

Other duties may be reasonably assigned to this position in consultation with your manager.

Competencies



Qualifications and Experience

- A relevant degree or professional qualification and experience in health, which could include nursing, health visiting or midwifery. We would also welcome applicants with a background in public health, health improvement and tackling health inequalities. A clinical qualification is desirable but not essential.
- Ability to think strategically and creatively about new approaches or ways of working which embed prevention and support measurable improvements in outcomes for children and families;

Knowledge and Skills

- Ability to work confidently in and across health, local authority and other relevant services, building effective, trusted relationships with stakeholders and other early years professionals to influence system change;

- Sound knowledge of relevant 0-5 guidance and frameworks in Scotland, and the evidence base that supports them.
- High levels of empathy, passion and care for children and families in local communities, with a strong commitment to putting children's voices and rights at the heart of decision-making.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to communicate and influence different groups of people.
- Someone who is self-starting and resilient, comfortable with working in complex environments and who is excited about the opportunity to shape the direction of our new programme from the beginning.
- Experience of programme or project management and/or improving practice is also desirable but not essential.