

HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

- CHILDREN'S SUFFICIENCY & COMMISSIONING



Salary: £75,000 – £82,000 per annum

Location: South East
(hybrid working – regional travel required)

Contract: Permanent, full-time

Reports to: Delivery Director

Organisation: Home and Future
– South East Regional Care Cooperative

ABOUT HOME AND FUTURE

LEADING SYSTEM CHANGE TO DELIVER THE RIGHT LOCAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABOUT HOME AND FUTURE

Home and Future is one of the first Regional Care Cooperatives (RCCs) established in England, created following the Independent Review of Children's Social Care led by Josh MacAlister.

We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation bringing together 17 local authorities across the South East with a shared ambition: to ensure children and young people have access to high-quality, local homes and support that meet their needs.

As we move from development into delivery, we are strengthening our senior commissioning leadership. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of children's commissioning and sufficiency at regional scale.

THE ROLE

As **Head of Commissioning – Children's Sufficiency & Commissioning**, you will lead the vision, strategy, and delivery of Home and Future's regional commissioning activity, reporting directly to the **Delivery Director**

You will drive a **needs-led commissioning model**, ensuring we know our children well, respond effectively to current and emerging market challenges, and deliver sustainable improvements in outcomes for children, young people, and their families.

A core part of the role is **leading a regional team of Commissioners and the Participation Lead**, embedding children and young people's lived experience at the heart of commissioning, sufficiency planning, and market development.

Working in an integrated way with local authorities, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), health, youth justice, providers and national partners, you will play a pivotal role in transforming how homes and care are commissioned across the South East.

ABOUT YOU

You will be a senior commissioning leader with:

- » Extensive experience in children's commissioning and sufficiency planning
- » A strong understanding of the children's care market and its current challenges
- » Proven experience leading and developing multidisciplinary teams
- » The credibility to influence at local, regional, and national levels
- » A strong commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people

WHY JOIN HOME AND FUTURE

- » Be part of one of England's first Regional Care Cooperatives
- » Lead system-wide transformation at scale
- » Influence national commissioning practice
- » Work collaboratively across local government, health, and justice

TO APPLY:

Please submit your CV and a supporting statement outlining your experience and motivation for the role to :

recruitment@homeandfuture.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the post please contact Vince Clark - Delivery Director
vince.clark@homeandfuture.org

Closing date: 12:00pm on Monday 16th February 2026.

Interviews: will be held the week of 23rd February 2026.

JOB DESCRIPTION

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1. ROLE PURPOSE

Reporting to the **Delivery Director**, the Head of Commissioning will provide strategic leadership for Home and Future’s regional commissioning and sufficiency agenda, ensuring children and young people across the South East have access to high-quality, local homes that meet their needs.

The post holder will lead the development and delivery of a **needs-led, evidence-informed commissioning model**, driving innovation, transparency, and value for money.

The role includes **line management responsibility for a regional team of Commissioners and the Participation Lead**, ensuring that commissioning activity is informed by children and young people’s lived experience and aligned to regional and national priorities.

The Commissioner of Commissioning will work in an integrated way with local authorities, Integrated Care Boards, health, youth justice, and national partners, embedding new national standards and best practice to drive the commissioning agenda.

2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING & SUFFICIENCY

- » Lead the vision, strategy, and delivery of regional commissioning and sufficiency activity.
- » Develop and implement a needs-led commissioning approach informed by robust understanding of children's needs and future demand.
- » Lead regional sufficiency strategies in partnership with the Lead for Data, ensuring effective use of evidence and insight.
- » Ensure children and young people across the South East have access to high-quality, local homes that meet their needs.

MARKET SHAPING & INNOVATION

- » Maintain a detailed understanding of the children's care market, including current challenges, risks, and opportunities.
- » Drive innovation in commissioning and market development to improve outcomes and sustainability.
- » Use evidence-based tools to improve transparency of needs, costs, and outcomes.

- » Support market stability, quality, and sufficiency through collaborative approaches.

PARTNERSHIP & SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

- » Act as a senior link with local authority commissioning and sufficiency leads across the South East.
- » Work in an integrated way with Integrated Care Boards, health partners, and youth justice to deliver joined-up commissioning solutions.
- » Lead engagement with national organisations and government bodies.
- » Share learning, intelligence, and best practice with new and developing Regional Care Cooperatives.

PROCUREMENT & ASSURANCE

- » Lead and oversee regional procurement activity in line with legal, financial, and governance requirements.
- » Ensure commissioning and procurement align with new national standards, guidance, and best practice.

Provide expert professional advice and assurance on commissioning activity.

PEOPLE LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION INTEGRATION

Provide leadership and line management to a regional team of Commissioners and the Participation Manager.

Embed participation and co-production throughout commissioning activity, ensuring lived experience informs service design and delivery.

Set clear priorities, objectives, and performance expectations for the team.

Support professional development, reflective practice, and continuous improvement.

- » Experience of market shaping, procurement, and contract management.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- » In-depth understanding of the children's care market and national children's social care reforms.
- » Strong knowledge of evidence-based commissioning tools and approaches.
- » Ability to analyse data and insight to inform strategic decisions.
- » Excellent influencing, negotiation, and stakeholder management skills.

3. PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

- » Extensive experience in children's commissioning and sufficiency planning.
- » Proven leadership of strategic commissioning at a senior level.
- » Experience of leading and developing multidisciplinary teams.
- » Experience of working across organisational boundaries, including local authorities, health, and justice.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- » Passionate about improving outcomes for children, young people, and families.
- » Collaborative, system-focused leadership style.
- » Confident operating in complex and evolving environments.
- » Commitment to transparency, partnership, and innovation.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- » Regional travel across the South East will be required.
- » Flexible and hybrid working arrangements are available.

5. WHY WORK FOR HOME AND FUTURE

This is a rare opportunity to play a leading role in shaping the future of children's commissioning at regional scale. You will lead a high-impact team, influence national practice, and help deliver lasting improvements for children and young people across the South East.

HOME
+
FUTURE