

Policy and public affairs advisor (health and social care)

Salary: CHA38 (£39,592)

Location: Hybrid home and office working (2 days a week in London, Pentonville Road N1 9LG)

Responsible to: Policy and public affairs manager

Hours: Full-time

Who we are

Sense is a leading disability charity with extensive knowledge and expertise in delivering personalised, creative and flexible support at every stage of life. We believe that every disabled person should have the opportunity to connect with others and be included in the world. Through our campaigns and policy influencing we unite with disabled people across the UK to demand change.

Regardless of how long it takes, how many barriers we need to overcome or how hard we must fight, we stop at nothing to create a world where disabled people are connected and included, no matter what.

Purpose of the role

This new and influential policy and public affairs advisor role will join a team that is ambitious about using evidence, lived experience and stories to drive change in health and



social care, alongside disabled people with complex needs. This is an exciting time to join Sense, as we develop and embed our new organisational strategy and strengthen our approach to evidence-led influencing through co-production.

You will provide expert insight into how health and social care policy and practice impact disabled people with complex needs, shape evidence-based policy positions and work with colleagues, stakeholders and decision-makers to secure meaningful improvements in health and social care policy alongside disabled people with complex needs.

Our policy and influencing work plays a central role in shaping health and social care systems so that disabled people with complex needs can access the support and dignity they deserve. We work nationally and locally to influence government, the NHS and local authorities, always grounded in lived experience and co-production.

The role is responsible for:

- Leading Sense's health and social care policy priorities and influencing, and contributing to wider organisational influencing strategies
- Developing evidence-based policy positions alongside disabled people with complex needs
- Engaging with relevant politicians, government departments, external health and social care organisations and campaign coalitions. Building and maintaining strong external networks and representing Sense externally

Specific responsibilities

Policy development and analysis

- Lead the development of Sense's health and social care policy priorities, ensuring they reflect the needs and experiences of disabled people with complex needs
- Analyse emerging legislation, government strategies, and regulatory changes across health, social care and integrated care systems



- Produce high quality policy briefings, consultation responses, and evidence submissions
- Identify gaps in policy and propose innovative and practical solutions.
- Ensure co-production is embedded throughout policy development, supporting power-shifting and inclusive practice

Influencing and advocacy

- Build strong relationships with policymakers, national and regional health bodies, local authorities, regulators, and sector partners
- Represent Sense at external meetings, roundtables, and advisory groups
- Support the development of influencing strategies and campaigns that drive systemic change
- Provide expert advice to colleagues across the Social Change directorate.
- Contribute to campaigns and coalitions that strengthen our collective influence

Research and evidence gathering

- Work with colleagues and disabled people with complex needs and their families to gather lived experience evidence
- Commission research or evidence gathering to strengthen Sense's social care and health policy position
- Translate complex data and insights into accessible, compelling narratives.

Internal collaboration and support

- Advise senior leaders on health and social care policy developments and strategic policy and practice opportunities.
- Support colleagues across the organisation to understand health and social care policy issues and their implications.



- Contribute to organisational planning, strategy development, and cross directorate projects.

Person specification

Essential experience and knowledge

- Strong understanding of UK health and social care policy, health and care structures, and integrated care systems.
- Experience developing policy positions, producing briefings, and responding to consultations.
- Demonstrated ability to analyse complex information and communicate it clearly to different audiences.
- Experience influencing or engaging with policymakers, government officials, or health system leaders at a national and regional level
- Knowledge of disability rights, health inequalities, and the barriers faced by disabled people with complex needs when accessing support

Desirable experience

- Experience working in the voluntary sector, particularly in disability charities
- Understanding of coproduction and involving people with lived experience in policy development.
- Experience conducting or commissioning research.

Skills and competencies

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong analytical and critical thinking abilities.
- Ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Confident representing an organisation externally.



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- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work independently.
- Commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Personal attributes

- Passionate about improving outcomes for disabled people with complex needs
- Empathetic, respectful, and committed to amplifying lived experience.
- Proactive, solution focused, and able to think strategically.
- Collaborative and supportive team player.
- Comfortable working in a fast paced, evolving policy environment.