

Title:	Research Manager
Contract type:	Permanent
Location:	Flexible, based at our London Head Office or home based
Hours:	Full time – 35 hours a week
Salary Scale:	£44,598 Office based (including London Weighting) £40,320 Home based
Closing Date:	9.00am, Monday 17 th August 2026
Interview Date:	3 rd or 4 th September 2026 (expected)

1. Introduction

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homeless agencies in England. With more than 750 members, we work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness and ensure that everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

As part of the Social Change directorate the Policy and Research team lead Homeless Link's evidence, policy influencing and thought leadership activities. The research team generates robust evidence and practical insight to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. We exist to contribute to the national evidence base needed to shape policy, challenge narratives, and advocate for system-level change. We deliver applied mixed-methods social research that helps organisations, commissioners, and communities understand needs, experiences, and what works to strengthen responses to homelessness.

We're looking to recruit a Research Manager to support the delivery of our strategic research portfolio. This role will involve managing and delivering research design, data collection, analysis and reporting, while working collaboratively with colleagues across Homeless Link, member organisations, academics, government officials, partners and people with lived experience.

The successful candidate will be an excellent project manager with strong quantitative research skills. They will have communication and relationship building skills, understanding of interpreting research findings in wider policy contexts, and of making strategic recommendations for national and local policy and decision makers.

We are actively seeking to increase our diversity within our organisation and would greatly welcome applications from people with lived experience of homelessness, from a black or minority ethnic background and/or with a disability.

Sophie Boobis
Head of Policy and Research

2. Job Profile

Role Description

The Research Manager leads on the development and delivery of a range of Homeless Link's strategic research projects, working to effectively provide evidence to underpin and support Homeless Link and the wider sector's understanding of homelessness, the homelessness system, and the homelessness workforce.

PURPOSE

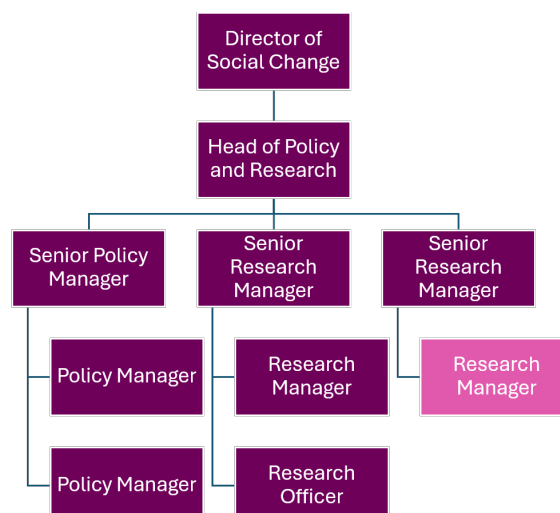
- To help strengthen our understanding of the causes and consequences of homelessness, service provision and effective practice through high-quality research and evaluation
- To support the delivery of strategic projects across Homeless Link's research portfolio
- To lead the delivery of MHCLG funded homelessness workforce research
- To undertake quantitative and qualitative research in support of the wider Homeless Link research team
- To help translate evidence and insights into accessible findings and practical recommendations for change

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Research Manager will be part of the Policy and Research team and will report to the Senior Research Manager. The Research Manager will work closely with all members of the Policy and Research team and will also liaise regularly with other teams across the organisation.

LOCATION

This post can either be based in our London office or home-based with willingness to travel within the UK, and some overnight stays required



RESPONSIBILITIES

RESEARCH

- Project manage the delivery of a varied portfolio of research projects
- Lead on quantitative and qualitative research design, including development of research tools, sampling approaches, fieldwork plans and analysis frameworks
- Lead on the delivery of MHCLG funded homelessness workforce research
- Undertake qualitative research with people experiencing homelessness, frontline homelessness providers and partners, and stakeholders across the homelessness sector, including interviews, focus groups or workshops
- Produce literature reviews, evidence summaries and briefings to inform project design and reporting
- Undertake analysis and reporting, helping to identify key themes, findings and implications for policy and practice

COMMUNICATION AND INFLUENCING

- Establish and maintain effective communication and stakeholder relationships with Homeless Link members, project partners and other potential key stakeholders
- Contribute to well-written, clear and accessible reports, briefings, presentations and other outputs
- Present research findings to internal and external audiences
- Work with the wider Research team to ensure findings inform Homeless Link's policy, practice development, workforce development, consultancy and communications work

CONTRIBUTING TO THE BIGGER PICTURE

- Develop knowledge and understanding of available evidence and data related to homelessness and related areas
- Support the delivery of the Homeless Link Research Forum, bringing together those conducting research related to homelessness and facilitating the sharing of practice and knowledge
- Contribute to internal learning and knowledge sharing across Homeless Link
- Support partnership working with researchers, evaluators, academics, voluntary sector organisations and statutory partners

GENERAL

- Roles and objectives in Homeless Link may change. All members of staff are expected to be prepared to work flexibly in response to changing business needs.
- All members of staff are expected to undertake any other responsibilities or tasks that are consistent with their role and/or reasonably required by the Chief Executive
- All members of staff are required to operate in accordance with Homeless Link's values, policies and procedures.

Person specification

QUALIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE FOR THE ROLE

Essential

- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research design and associated methods in a social research setting
- Experience in working with data including data management, data cleaning, data manipulation and data analysis
- Experience of using research, analysis and data visualisation software such as SPSS, R, NVivo, Power BI or equivalent
- Knowledge or experience of carrying out qualitative research, such as interviews, focus groups or workshops

Desirable

- Knowledge or experience of research involving people with people experiencing disadvantage, exclusion or trauma
- Understanding of ethical and data protection considerations when conducting research with people experiencing disadvantage, exclusion or trauma
- Knowledge of the current context in relation to homelessness, social exclusion, health and social care, or a related field

EXPERIENCE AND TRACK RECORD

Essential

- Experience of project managing planning and delivering research and/or evaluation projects to a high standard and within agreed timelines
- Experience of analysing quantitative and/or qualitative data and presenting findings clearly and accurately
- Strong analytical skills, including the ability to interpret data from different sources
- Excellent written communication skills, including the ability to write clearly and accessibly for different audiences
- Good verbal communication skills, including confidence engaging with colleagues, partners and research participants
- Strong organisational skills, with the ability to manage competing priorities in a time-pressured environment
- Ability to work independently, use initiative and seek support when needed
- Confidence working collaboratively as part of a team and with external stakeholders
- Strong IT skills and ability to work effectively in a hybrid or remote-working environment

Desirable

- Experience of undertaking research to inform policy and practice influencing
- Experience of peer research, co-production and/or lived experience involvement in research design, delivery and analysis

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ROLES AT HOMELESS LINK

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work outside normal office hours

- Willingness and ability to operate in accordance with the values and policies of Homeless Link.
- Willingness and ability to work flexibly in response to changing organisational requirements.
- Commitment to bring into the work the views, needs and voices of people with direct experience of homelessness.

Desirable

- A sound understanding of the causes, consequences and solutions to homelessness based on lived experience.

Key Competencies

Summary of Core Competencies

Personal Contribution	Working with Others	Organisational Contribution
Personal Effectiveness: Demonstrating effective working practices, striving to deliver high performance	Teamwork: Working cooperatively, building and nurturing strong relationships within and outside the organisation.	Resource and Project Management: Achieving results through efficient and effective management of projects and resources.
Effective Communication: Demonstrates ability to communicate concisely, accurately and persuasively verbally and in writing with a range of audiences	Stakeholder Focus: Identifying, understanding and striving to exceed the needs of all stakeholders.	
Expert/Technical Knowledge: Demonstrating best use of required knowledge in specified field ensuring continuous learning and development.		

Explanation of terms used

- **Role description:** gives details of the duties of the post. Use this as a guide to decide whether you think the job would suit you.
- **Person specification:** lists the criteria, which will be used to assess your application and covers the qualifications, specialist knowledge, experience, and track record that we are looking for.
- **Key competencies:** these are for your information. We will look for evidence of all these during the interview and testing stage if you are shortlisted.

3. Employee Benefits

Salary scales:

£44,598 - £50,225 per annum if based in our London Head Office
(Minimum 2 days per week worked in the office)

£40,320 - £45,366 per annum if home based

It is our policy to appoint at the first point of the scale.

4. How to apply

Sending in your application

Please provide your CV with a covering letter explaining how you will meet the requirements in the person specification, along with the online [equal opportunities monitoring form](#) and email to: recruitment@homelesslink.org.uk.

The closing date is Monday, 17th August, 9.00am. Applications received after the published closing date will not be considered.

We plan to hold interviews on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September.

For any queries about the post, please email recruitment@homelesslink.org.uk

Supporting people with disabilities

Homeless Link is committed to improving its employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Please let us know if you require support, modifications, adjustments, or special equipment to assist you with the recruitment process. We will contact you to discuss your requirements further.

Supporting people with experience of homelessness

As part of Homeless Link's commitment to support people with experience of homelessness, we have committed to giving feedback to applicants who have experience of homelessness.

Use of AI

We value human talent and are looking for passionate individuals to join our organisation. Applications that rely too heavily on AI may be rejected during shortlisting, however we understand that AI may be used as a reasonable adjustment, if using AI to support your application, please give a brief explanation why to help ensure fair selection process.

[For more information about working at Homeless Link follow this link to our website](#)