

Job title: Workforce Manager

Current employer: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)

Sector: Charity / membership organisation

Tell us about your current role and organisation

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is an organisation for doctors working in child health. We set and maintain educational standards and run exams. Furthermore, we set clinical guidelines, standards of care and conduct audits all with the overall aim of improving child health.

I work in the Research and Quality Improvement arm, where I manage a team that collects evidence about the child health workforce. Across the NHS there is a crisis in the shortage of doctors and nurses. We gather evidence, influence decision makers, and empower doctors with tools to improve their service. Children deserve the right healthcare professionals to deliver comprehensive and high-quality care.

How did you move from academia to your current role?

I did my BSc and MSc in Psychology at Bristol University. Then I moved to Brighton to do my PhD at Sussex University. I studied cognition, vision and language development in infants, toddlers and adults. During my PhD, my supervisor took maternity leave and I took the opportunity to intermit and take a secondment to work at Public Health England (PHE). I moved to Salisbury and worked at Porton Down with the Behavioural Science team on a project about stockpiling medicines.

This made me passionate about public health and I looked out for other opportunities, such as working as a Scientific Writer for the European Commission on a public health conference.

At the end of my PhD, it was a very stressful time. I had run out of funding and was still writing up my thesis. I applied for a range of jobs, but I particularly wanted to move out of academia. This was because working at PHE had showed me that a [redacted] suited me much better than the uncertainty of academia.

I applied for a Researcher role at the RCPCH and was not successful. However, they invited me to apply for another role a few weeks later as a Project Lead in the workforce team. I had no idea what the job would entail but I applied and was successful. I moved to London in the autumn of 2017 and spent the first

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What's the progression like/where do you see yourself going from here? /P <</MCID 102>> BDC q 0.

My interests still lie in public health and health data. I'm really interested in large-scale interventions in health, especially in the early years. After a few years in my current role, I would like to move out of London so I can keep an eye on interesting projects such as the Devolution