



Policy Engagement Manager

Full time £35,000 pa

Job description

### **In a nutshell**

A critical role in a small and very influential organisation working on food policy, providing cross organizational leadership on public affairs and engagement with policy makers and parliamentarians.

### **About the Food Foundation**

Our vision is a sustainable food system which delivers health and wellbeing for all.

The Food Foundation is a young, dynamic, impactful and independent charity with a mission to change food policy and business practice to ensure everyone, across the UK, can afford and access a healthy diet supplied by a sustainable food system.

We use surprising and inventive ideas to catalyse and deliver fundamental change in the food system by building and synthesising strong evidence, shaping powerful coalitions, harnessing citizens' voices and driving progress with impactful communications. We continually identify new opportunities for action, and trial new levers for change.

We are independent of all political parties and business, and we are not limited by a single issue or special interest. We work with others who believe there is a problem with the system and want to change it. We have a terrific and dedicated group of trustees and expert advisers who support our work.

### **About the opportunity**

This role provides organizational leadership on engagement with policy makers (civil servants, Ministers, local authorities, devolved governments) and parliamentarians (in all four UK nations). The postholder will have leadership on the evidence needed to inform our communications as well the engagement strategy which we adopt.

The role reports to the Executive Director and will also work closely with our communications team. The role will work across our four project teams working to deliver the following 5 year objectives by providing leadership on policy engagement.

## RETHINKING CHILDREN'S FOOD THROUGH OUR CHILDREN'S RIGHT2FOOD CAMPAIGN

The UK will have substantially improved design and delivery of policies which affect children's food and contribute to a reduction in children's food insecurity and childhood obesity.

## INCREASING VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION THROUGH PEAS PLEASE AND VEG POWER

Changing veg consumption: There will be a permanent shift in the food system in favour of higher veg consumption reflected in both business practice and government policies, with three billion additional portions of vegetables consumed.

## CHANGING BUSINESS INCENTIVES THROUGH PLATING UP PROGRESS

All retailers and high street food chains will routinely report on key metrics demonstrating their support for healthy diets from sustainable food systems so that government, investors and citizens can use the new data to inform policy, investment and behaviour.

## TRANSFORMING NATIONAL AND CITY FOOD POLICY TO SUPPORT HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS:

Food policy at national (England) and city levels (Birmingham & Pune) will have significantly strengthened through the development of integrated strategies. These are already starting to reorient food systems to deliver healthier and more sustainable diets.

### **Responsibilities**

1. Developing and maintaining a strong network of stakeholders working in food policy within academia and civil society
2. Developing and maintaining strong relationships with civil servants, local authorities and parliamentarians.
3. Providing guidance on evidence and policy solutions to Food Foundation projects and leading the policy engagement work required for these projects
4. Identifying policy relevant research questions
5. Developing terms of reference for researchers and overseeing the quality of their work
6. Synthesizing evidence for policy and parliamentary audiences and writing policy briefing papers and reports
7. Drafting blogs and copy for the website, as well as supporting digital and media communications
8. Overseeing and developing our internal monitoring and learning system which tracks project performance indicators and outcomes.
9. Leading the process of developing the Food Foundation's annual report
10. Reporting on the Food Foundation's work to core funders who fund work which is not project specific.
11. Helping to administer the process for effective working with our Expert Advisors.

### **Personal attributes, skills and experience**

#### Essential

- Excellent verbal communications, strong networking skills and existing relationships with actors working in food policy in the UK
- Experience in reviewing research and assessing its quality

- Excellent written communication for a range of audiences (policy makers, parliamentarians, general public)
- A strong understanding of public policy processes including the workings of parliament and devolved government
- Experience in working in advocacy to influence policy
- A genuine passion for the objectives of The Food Foundation.
- Ability to work in a fast-moving environment, with a clear focus on delivery and a strong team player
- 3 years relevant work experience

Desirable

- Experience of reporting to donors
- In depth knowledge of 1-2 areas of food policy
- Experience of working with local authorities

Salary: £35,000. Permanent, full-time. 5% contribution to pension.

Start date: As soon as possible.

**How to apply**

Please send your CV and a covering letter detailing your suitability for the role with examples of how you meet the criteria above to: [office@foodfoundation.org.uk](mailto:office@foodfoundation.org.uk) by 09:00 on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Interviews will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

For more information about The Food Foundation, please visit: [www.foodfoundation.org.uk](http://www.foodfoundation.org.uk)