



Dear Applicant,

I am excited to invite you to apply for the post of Chief Operating Officer at the South East Regional Care Cooperative (RCC). We are building a new organisation to shape the future of children's social care in the South East and need a talented operations professional to guide us along the way. You will be at the centre of the RCC: developing strategy which makes a profound impact on the lives of looked-after children and young people in our region.

The South East RCC was born out of the "Stable Homes, Built on Love" strategy and consultation, following the Independent Review of Children's Social Care led by Josh MacAlister in May 2022. As one of two national pathfinder areas, the South East has been granted a pioneering opportunity to address the collective challenges we face.

Our vision is clear and deliberately written to the child to keep a laser focus on improving children's outcomes through everything the RCC does: *By working together across the South East, we will provide the right care for you that is available locally and when needed. We will be loving, caring, and consistent, with high aspirations for you. We will listen to you, put your needs first, and never give up on you. By working together, your voice will be stronger and more influential.*

As the Chief Operating Officer, you will play a crucial role in realising this vision. We are seeking a candidate who is both a strategic thinker and a hands-on problem solver. You will need to be comfortable managing day-to-day operations across all functions, including finance, HR, legal, procurement, and facilities management. An understanding of local government and the children's care sector will be beneficial. Above all, you should be an excellent communicator, with strong project management skills and the ability to develop and lead high-performing teams. There is more detail on the specific responsibilities and accountabilities in the attached job description.

At the time of writing, the SE RCC is still in a set-up phase. A project team has been working since April 2024 to determine the correct form for the organisation and to lay the groundwork for working with local authorities, partners and young people. We are following a roadmap which sees activity commence in shadow form in June, before incorporating as a company over the summer and going live in December. We intend to appoint the Chief Operating Officer before December as they will be instrumental in navigating the transitional period and in making subsequent hires to the team ahead of go-live. They will work closely with the CEO to shape the longer-term strategy of the organisation. We understand that potential applicants may have questions about this timeline, and we would be happy to discuss this further at interview.

If you are a passionate operations leader who is excited about making a difference to young people and feel that you have the skills and experience to lead our team, I encourage you to apply for this role.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Warm regards,

Lucy Butler
Project Director - South East Regional Care Cooperative