

Recruitment Pack:

Head of Place

Find out more about this role and London Sport by joining our online candidate information session on **Wednesday 14th October at 10.30am**. Join using this [link](#) or watch the recording on our [YouTube](#) channel after the session.

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About London Sport

London Sport is a not-for-profit organisation helping all Londoners live longer, healthier and happier lives through being active.

Part of a national network, we champion physical activity in London's most deprived communities, sharing insights, influencing decision makers and allocating funding to effect change.

In some parts of the capital, people live 12 years longer in good health than others. With physical inactivity one of the leading risk factors for preventable ill health, we want to help more people find their way to move more.

Those in our most deprived communities face the greatest inequalities and barriers to leading an active life. If we can help people be active, we can improve mental health, tackle obesity, boost children's academic performance, reduce pressure on the NHS, and unlock an estimated £10 billion in economic and social value for the city.

By collaborating with like-minded organisations, we aim to create fairer access to sport and physical activity across the capital.

Our work is 100% focused on London. By concentrating on the capital's most deprived communities, we've built relationships and insight that no other organisation can match. This depth of understanding allows us to provide evidence that policymakers and funders can trust to shape decisions and drive meaningful change.

Join the London Sport Team

London's diversity is its biggest asset. That's why London Sport champions equality and strives to reflect our capital's diversity in our Board and staff appointments.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds, ethnic minority groups, disabled people and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

At London Sport, you'll be part of a group of people who believe that we can change the lives of Londoners for the better through sport and physical activity.

We also believe in activity in the workplace. Our office is part of the House of Sport, a three story co-working space founded by London Sport to provide physical activity and sport organisations in London with a base to collaborate, network and learn from one another.

Along with our partners across the building, we are proud of a working culture that supports people to be active, whether that's through early morning yoga classes, lunchtime HIIT sessions, or post-work runs.

We're constantly challenging the sports industry to think more creatively about the ways that it works for London, and we include ourselves in that challenge too. If we're not thinking creatively, we're not thinking clearly enough about what matters for Londoners.

In recent years, we've had a run of successes which we're excited to build on going forward. From the growth of our landmark London Sport Awards to our commitment to helping children form an active habit for life, we're proud to be part of a growing and increasingly important movement to bring activity to people all across London.

We're looking for colleagues who will challenge us, encourage us, and work with us to enable every community in London to reap the benefits of an active life.

We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We are focussed on ensuring that our workforce is representative of the communities we serve.

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The Role

The Head of Place will lead the strategic development, delivery, and expansion of London Sport's [Place-based approach](#), overseeing the [Place Expansion](#) programme funded by Sport England.

The role is responsible for embedding locally led, system-wide approaches to increase physical activity levels in underserved communities across London, reducing inequalities and improving health outcomes.

What You'll Do

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the design and delivery of the Place Expansion Programme across six London boroughs
- Implement and evolve the current London Sport approach to "Place" strategy aligned with London Sport's mission and Sport England priorities
- Ensure place-based working reflects local insight, community voice, local political oversight and system collaboration
- Act as a senior strategic advisor on place-based approaches internally and externally.
- Work with colleagues across London Sport to ensure Place work aligns with wider strategy and priorities, looking to maximise opportunities across the organisation to work efficiently.

Programme Delivery & Management

- Oversee a portfolio of place partnerships, ensuring high-quality delivery, managing programme performance against agreed outcomes, KPIs, and investment requirements
- Ensure robust governance processes are established in each Place partnership, oversee reporting, and work with colleagues to ensure evaluation frameworks are in place
- Ensure the systematic use of London Sport project management approach and tools (such as Zoho) across the team.
- Drive innovation and continuous improvement across place-based delivery models
- Partnership & Stakeholder Engagement
- Build and maintain senior relationships with local authority officers and councillors, health systems, and local community organisations as the senior point of contact for London Sport.
- Represent London Sport within regional and national place-based networks
- Influence policy and practice embedding physical activity within wider systems (health, planning, community development)

Team Leadership

- Lead and develop a high-performing team delivering place-based work
- Foster a culture of collaboration, inclusion, and learning
- Provide coaching, direction, and performance management

Insight, Learning & Impact

- Work closely and efficiently with colleagues in the Impact and Insight team to champion the use of data, insight, and community engagement to shape interventions.
- Work with colleagues in Impact to ensure learning is captured and shared across London and nationally and reported as required.

Financial & Resource Management

- Work with colleagues in Finance to lead the management of programme budgets and ensure effective use of funding, ensuring that funding is spent on time and as agreed.
- Oversee partner funding agreements.
- Ensure compliance with funder requirements and organisational policies including Procurement policies and procedures.
- Manage contractor relationships as required.

Who You Are

- Significant senior leadership experience in place-based, community development, or public health programmes
- Proven track record of managing complex, multi-stakeholder programmes with significant budgets
- Experience of working with or alongside public sector systems such as London local government
- Strong understanding of inequalities in physical activity, health, or social outcomes
- Deep understanding of place-based approaches and systems change
- Excellent stakeholder management and influencing skills at senior level
- Strong programme and financial management capability
- Ability to translate insight and evidence into strategy and delivery
- Confident communicator with experience representing organisations externally
- Strategic thinker with the ability to operate at both system and delivery levels
- Collaborative and partnership-driven mindset
- Resilient, adaptable, and outcome-focused
- You are able to demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, equality, diversity and inclusion in relation to London.
- You have lived experience of day-to-day life in London.

Your Team

London Sport is a team of people with very different backgrounds, experiences and specialisms.

Meet some of the team you'll be working with:

Mili Patel | Director of Place, Programmes and Delivery

As Director of Place, Programmes and Delivery at London Sport, I lead a range of programmes and projects that aim to make a positive difference to communities across London. My work includes leading Place Expansion, Safeguarding and Welfare, Playzones and wider project delivery, with a focus on making sure our work is impactful, inclusive, sustainable and continually improving.

A big part of my role is bringing people and organisations together to work towards shared goals. Place-based working can be complex, so I enjoy building strong relationships with partners, navigating different priorities and finding practical ways to make things happen. I also lead on safeguarding across the organisation, helping to ensure that it remains at the heart of everything we do.

Outside of work, I try to stay active with my local community running club and enjoy getting involved with my gardening grow group.

Fraser Allan | Senior Development Manager

I work within the Place team leading on the Place Expansion programme with a primary focus on Brent and Lambeth. My role involves working collaboratively with both statutory and non-statutory partners to ensure local priorities, collaboration and community voice within the local area remain at the heart of our work. I ensure alignment between strategic ambitions and local activation, supporting partners to overcome barriers and create sustainable opportunities for residents to be more active. Through relationship building and insight led planning, I strive for our work to be responsive, equitable and rooted in each borough's unique context.

When I am not trying to get other people more active, I am keeping myself moving usually by playing five a side football.

Simon Tanner | Head of Impact and Learning

I lead our work supporting internal and external stakeholders to understand the impact our work has and identify ways to share the learning to best influence delivery and action. I find the Place, System Partner and System Change work fascinating and exciting and revel in the challenge to evaluate those areas effectively and efficiently to understand the 'what, so what, and what's next' for a range of audiences. I've been a researcher/evaluator and learning professional for over 25 years and my life outside work involves long distance running and playing and organising (voluntary) cricket for the mighty Crouch End CC.

The Process

You'll need to complete an online application form and answer 4 short questions (1700 characters per question, approximately 250 words) and submit your CV via our careers site. We won't be able to process your application if you don't complete these questions. If you need any reasonable adjustments to be able to complete the application process, please email HR@londonsport.org.

Read more about our recruitment process and how we try to make it as fair and inclusive as possible [here](#).

Key Details:

- Full-time (35 hours per week). We are open to discussing flexible working options.
- Salary: £63,000 per annum if full-time
- Permanent contract
- Offering 28 days' holiday + 8 public holidays + 5 volunteer days + Christmas Closure
- Competitive Pension scheme
- Life Assurance and Health Cash Plan
- Access to free online GP appointments
- Employee Assistance Provider giving access to counselling and practical support
- Flexible working: we use a model of 2 plus days per week in our central London office and working from home, with regular travel required throughout London

Timeline:

- Deadline for applications: EoD on Tuesday 27th October
- Interviews:
 - First Interview: Thursday 12th November
 - Second Interview (if successful at first interview): Wednesday 18th November

To Apply:

To apply for this role please visit: <https://careers.londonsport.org/job/966737>

If you have any questions about the role or London Sport, please email hr@londonsport.org.