

How to Guide: Setting Objectives

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Date March 2025

How to set performance objectives

Objectives & Accountabilities

What should work-based objectives be ?

- · Be clear & specific.
- Have clearly defined outcomes - what will achievement of the objectives look like?
- How will the employee's personal impact be evidenced?
- Be challenging yet achievable
- Not be too numerous.
- What are the key objectives?
- Relevant to the role.
- Be within the employee's control.

Objectives should...

- be described in a way that makes sense to the service and are proportionate to the job.
- have some correlation and consistency where a number of identical roles operate across a service/team.
- take into account the employee's practical opportunity to deliver, ensuring that expectations are realistic and fair.
- be agreed, but are necessary static so should be reviewed regularly and updated/added to as appropriate.

Standards that apply

- Expected KCC standards for the role.
- Professional standards (if applicable) for the role
- The Kent Code (which sets out the standard of conduct for all KCC employess)
- Organisational or directorate expectations (including Managing in KCC or mandatory training)

Values & Behaviours

What are KCC's Values & Behaviours?

- •We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge.
- •We are curious to innovate and improve.
- •We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all
- •We are strong together by sharing knowledge.
- •We are responsible for the difference we make.

Aspirational behaviours - our cultural attributes

- •Provide renewed focus on inclusion, diversity and enable high performance.
- •Compassionate and inclusive.
- •Working together building and delivering for the best interests of KCC.
- •Externally focused residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making.
- •Flexible/agile willing to take (calculated risks)
- •Empowering our people take accountability for their decisions and actions.
- •Curious constantly learning and evolving.

How to use values and behaviours in managing performance

•To set expectations.

- Recognise the importance of how the job is done (for example a positive performance assessment should not be given if there have been examples of poor or ineffective behaviour).
- Identify areas for improvement and development.
- Reward and recognition for 'living the values' of the organisation in everything someone does and being a role model for others.
- •Challenge poor or ineffective behaviour.
- •Behaviours are adaptable to reflect needs/circumstances of different roles and described in other ways which reflect our values.