**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE: Senior Solution Architect**

**CONTRACT: 12 Months Fixed Term**

**DEPARTMENT:** Unity ICT

**LOCATION:** Oldham

**REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:** CTO, direct report of.

**JOB PURPOSE:** A delivery focused Senior Solution Architect who drives ICT strategic agendas by facilitating the commissioning, planning, design and delivery of ICT change initiatives. The person will create technical and commercial documentation and provide technical assistance to initiate, design and lead the implementation of high-quality ICT projects which enhance the experience for our users and in turn help improve the lives of the residents of Oldham. The role will recommend and deliver initiatives based on business benefit to the users of the Oldham Council and Unity Partnership ICT estate. The role will have autonomy to drive and oversee the technical change required to enable the whole technology stack (from Networks to Website, and from Enterprise Management to Security Assurance) based on a Cloud First strategy. This role will take technical ownership of the development of parts of the reference enterprise architecture, including Wide Area Network, Cloud and Security.

**PRINCIPAL JOB ELEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities**

To undertake all investigation and analysis of the current environment to feed into design documentation and migration plans

To recommend technology improvements, both incremental and strategic

To help with having new solutions accepted into service

To take a proactive approach to help achieving the ICT Strategy by identifying opportunities and taking ownership for areas

To work within, and help develop efficient and effective change methodologies to enable bimodal approach to ICT delivery

To attend and take the lead in workshops comprising business and or technical representatives to input in to solutions

 Take a lead role in ensuring end to end security for solutions

To ensure that solution designs are prepared in a structured way, prioritised to reflect business or technical priorities and are approved by appropriate stakeholders. Scope is to cover test cycle contents and regression packs.

To work within Unity ICT’s project and service governance including commercial and change boards.

To act as point of escalation for technical problems arising from solution designs

To lead technical members of staff in the build of systems including hand over training and coaching

To aid project planning, test planning and acceptance into service processes

To take responsibility for: time management; reporting and monitoring; risk management; issue management; quality assurance and change management.

To support other test team members and associated IT and Business resources as appropriate to the implementation of testing related activities.

**Skills, knowledge, qualifications required for job**

**Core Competencies**

**Solution Architecture –**

* Broad experience across technologies and solutions for Enterprise
* Technical competency and experience
* A willingness and desire to learn new technologies
* Takes a responsibility for keeping abreast of sector development
* An understanding of complex organisations such as Local Government
* A firm Technical diplomat who practices Win:Win negotiation
* At least 3 of the following
* Office 365 including
* Cloud IaaS, PaaS and DRaaS
* Software Defined WAN/LAN
* Security Technologies
* Programming Languages (vb.net, PHP, C#, Ruby on Rails)
* Security technologies (HTTPS, SAML, OAuth2, SSO)
* Workflow Engines – CRM
* Enterprise Service Bus
* Database design – MS SQL
* Business Intelligence reporting

**Achieving Results** – Be aware of key business objectives, and ensure these are applied appropriately to all business activities.

**Building Relationships** – Able to develop effective relationships with all Stakeholders and be recognised as providing a supporting role.

**Commercialism –** understanding how business works, using knowledge of the needs of business to negotiate win:wins, contributing to compelling commercial proposals

**Customer Focus (internal & external)** – Able to anticipate and understand customer expectations, and ensure customer requirements are met and expectations appropriately managed. Able to build professional relationships with customers and suppliers, and focus on solving their problems.

**Communication** – Good communication skills suitable for the liaison with departmental staff and senior management. Demonstrate good communication, both orally and in writing, with colleagues, clients and customers including producing reports, preparing, organising and delivering presentations using appropriate tools and techniques.

**Planning and Organising –** Good at determining a course of action by breaking it down into smaller steps and by planning and resourcing each of these, making allowance for potential problems.

**Teamwork** – Able to contribute effectively towards the objectives of a team, and be able to share knowledge, ideas and information. Aware of the needs, objectives and constraints of those in other disciplines and functions.

**Problem Solving and Decision Making –** Able to solve problems in a measured and creative way.

Capable of independently assessing a wide variety of tasks, and be proactive in relation to identifying and undertaking activities that are to the benefit of the business. Be responsible for own decisions.

**Influencing and Impact** – Act in a professional manner, and exhibit the required behaviour that should act as an example to other employees. Good at identifying goals and objectives, and motivating others towards their achievement.

**Innovation and Adaptability** – Undertake tasks with a positive attitude and respond well to management and client requests.

**Personal Attributes/Functional Competencies:**

**Qualifications** – Degree qualified or relevant professional qualification and experience

**Experience –** No directly applicable experience required, but able to demonstrate a positive approach to work and personal development.

**Training –** Formal training not required.

**Skills –** Familiar with general IT related competencies (infrastructure or applications). Familiar with methods and techniques for structured reviews,

**Analytical Thinking –** Good at acquiring an understanding of a problem or situation, and developing an approach to interacting with the situation.

**Strategic Perspective –** Needs to keep overall objectives and strategies in mind, and not be deflected by matters of detail.

**Stress Handling** – Retaining objectivity and proper understanding of a problem or situation when placed under conditions of stress.

**Applying standards** – Good in application of relevant industry and process standards to all tasks undertaken.