

One Page Profile Sarah Acton (she/her)



What people like and admire about me...

- My enthusiasm and energy to drive forward positive changes and collaborate with colleagues.
- My ability to see both sides of an argument, and play "devil's advocate". I like to kick the tyres on problems and opportunities to make sure we're making the best decision possible.
- My empathy, kindness and compassion. I try to always see the best in people.
- I am a supportive colleague. If I have ideas and suggestions for improvement, I will always aim to do this sensitively and privately.
- My ability to cut through complexity and get to the heart of the matter.
- My experience in HR and OD, obtained in a range of sectors.

What's important to me...

- Making connections on a human level as well as on a professional level. I'm interested in people, and I like to find out what's going on in my colleagues' lives.
- Treating people with compassion and fairness. I always make the effort to listen to staff concerns and wherever possible, address them. Where it's not possible to meet their needs, I'll do my best to explain why, in a way that resonates with them.
- Continuous learning and getting out of my comfort zone I like to roll my sleeves up and have a go at new things, even if I have a steep learning curve ahead of me!
- Spending time with my family. My partner and I live in south Manchester, but are originally from Staffordshire, and we adore spending time with our nieces and nephew.
- Getting out into nature I'd always considered myself a "city girl" before the pandemic, but I've quickly learnt the healing qualities of wandering through woods and along rivers.

How to support me well at work...

- I find my "flow" when I'm collaborating with others when we have a clear goal and everyone knows their role.
- My curiosity is often piqued by data and graphs. Because I like to look at all sides of a story, I often want to understand what the data is *not* showing us, and which voices are not being heard. This is not a criticism of the person putting together the report, it's just satisfying my curiosity.
- If you have feedback for me, please couch it in terms that will help me learn and grow.
- All new roles are a steep learning curve please give me as much time as possible to digest important information, indulge me if I ask lots of questions, and translate acronyms wherever possible!