



Senior Accountants - Children Families and Education Finance Team

Salary: Band 10 £42,838 to £47,181 per annum plus market supplement payment of £2,741 per annum

Hours per week: 37 hours

Your contractual hours are 37 per week, which are to be worked in accordance with the flexible working hours' scheme and the needs of the Service.

Office attendance is required minimum 2-days a week for full time staff, this remains flexible, subject to business needs.

Location: Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Contract type: Permanent

The Service (include department)

As a service we take pride in our work by valuing others and focusing on what is important so that we make a real and positive difference.

As a Council, we work to shape our City and to deliver high quality, sustainable public services. We protect our vulnerable residents whilst at the same time capitalising on opportunities to improve the prosperity of all our residents, including outcomes for children and young people by driving economic growth and job creation, investing in skills to equip our residents for employment and by enabling housing that people can afford.

We are looking to recruit two talented and motivated Senior Accountants to join our Children, Families and Education Finance Team. These are exciting opportunities to play a key role in supporting some of the council's most important services, helping to shape financial strategy, drive improvement, and ensure resources deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

What is the role?

Senior Accountant – Schools Funding and Dedicated Schools Grant

This role will be central to the financial management of the **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)** and school funding arrangements across the city.

You will play a pivotal role in the annual budget-setting process for schools, colleges and early years providers, ensuring funding is allocated effectively and in line with national regulations. Working closely with senior leaders, schools and other stakeholders, you will monitor and report on financial performance, provide expert advice, and support informed decision-making.

Key responsibilities include:

- Driving the annual DSG budget-setting process and school funding arrangements.

- Monitoring and reporting funding performance, identifying financial risks and opportunities.
- Provision of high-quality financial analysis, reporting and advice.
- Providing guidance and support to maintained schools to help achieve financially sustainable outcomes.
- Supporting the implementation of Department for Education funding reforms and policy changes.
- Building strong relationships with schools, education providers and external partners.

Senior Accountant – Education and Social Care Transformation

This role will be at the forefront of supporting the implementation of significant **Education and Social Care reforms**, helping to shape and deliver transformational change across services.

You will work alongside service leaders and project teams to provide financial expertise on major change programmes, developing robust business cases, evaluating options and ensuring that investment decisions deliver value for money.

Key responsibilities include:

- Providing financial support and challenge to transformation and change projects.
- Developing financial models and costing options to support strategic decision-making.
- Supporting the implementation of government reforms across Education and Social Care.
- Evaluating efficiencies, savings opportunities and investment proposals.
- Monitoring programme budgets, benefits realisation and financial performance.
- Working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure successful delivery of change initiatives.

Who is the person?

You need:

1. Be CCAB qualified with 2 years post qualified experience and be able to demonstrate professional updating.
2. Be computer literate, having a high standard of spreadsheet skills including using complex and large data sets and being proficient in the use of Word, Outlook and Excel etc. You'll also need to be capable of using other financial information systems for example, Oracle Fusion and Business Intelligence.
3. Demonstrable experience of building productive relationships and influencing a wide range of stakeholders, including senior managers, elected members, schools, partners and external agencies.
4. Ability to analyse and interpret complex financial and operational information and present findings clearly to both financial and non-financial audiences.
5. Experience of interpreting complex legislation, guidance and funding regulations and applying them effectively within a financial management environment.

6. Have experience of preparing budgets for a period of more than one year, preparing monthly budget monitoring reports, identifying financial risks and opportunities and agreeing appropriate mitigations, preparation of monthly accounts, financial monitoring and final annual accounts.
7. Experience of supporting organisational change, transformation programmes or service redesign initiatives, providing financial challenge and support throughout the process.
8. Have experience of appraising and evaluating the financial implications of projects and proposals using accounting techniques.
9. Have proven experience in successfully developing and maintaining complex financial models.
10. Have good organisational skills and be able to prioritise work and concentrate time on the most important matters to meet key deadlines, for oneself and team members.
11. Be an effective team player with a positive outlook, willingness to learn and a flexible approach to work.
12. Have an open mind and an ability to apply new ideas to improve processes that benefit all stakeholders.
13. Knowledge of local government finance is essential.
14. Whilst a knowledge of school funding arrangements, Dedicated Schools Grant funding, Schools Forum processes and education finance is desirable, a keen interest and a willingness to learn is essential.
15. Experience of supporting major programmes, business cases, option appraisals and benefits realisation is desirable.
16. Have strong customer care skills and a good understanding of equalities and Health & Safety.

Desirable: the following skills would support the right candidate further into the role:

1. Knowledge or experience of school funding arrangements, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Schools Forum processes and wider education finance.
2. Candidates without direct education finance experience will still be considered, provided they can demonstrate a strong interest in the sector and a willingness to learn.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).