Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

Group Accountant

Salary: Band:12 - £54,142 - £58,632 per annum, plus £5,704 market supplement payment (discretionary market supplement)

37 hours per week: 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/working Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 17:00pm.

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

Location: Civic Offices

Contract type: Permanent

The Service

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

Portsmouth City Council is committed to delivering high quality, sustainable public services that protect our most vulnerable residents whilst at the same time capitalising on opportunities to improve the prosperity of all our residents. In Adult Social Care and Public Health, we support adults with care needs, promote independence and work in partnership with health and community services to improve outcomes for adults and the wider population.

We are looking to recruit a talented and motivated Group Accountant to join our Adult Social Care and Public Health Finance Team. This is an exciting opportunity 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 adults in need of care and for public health initiatives.

What is the role?

Based within the Finance and Resources Directorate and reporting to the Finance Manager (Adult Social Care and Public Health), acting as deputy to the Finance Manager as required. You will play a pivotal role in the annual budget-setting process for Adult Social Care and Public Health, ensuring funding is allocated effectively and in line with national regulations and local priorities. Working closely with senior leaders, operational managers and external partners, you will monitor and report on financial performance, provide expert advice, and support informed decision-making.

Key responsibilities include:

- Managing the annual Adult Social Care and Public Health budget-setting process. Ensuring statutory deadlines, national guidance, the council's constitution (including financial rules) and professional standards are adhered to.

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

- Monitoring and reporting funding performance, identifying financial risks and opportunities and delivering statutory financial statements, (particularly during financial closedown.
- Providing financial analysis, advice and support for specific projects and working groups such as service transformation, integration with health partners and government reforms (e.g. Care Act changes, Better Care Fund, Public Health Grant initiatives).
- Supporting the Adult Social Care and Public Health management team and partnership boards through high-quality financial analysis, reporting and advice.
- Managing the provision of guidance and support to operational teams, including strategic advice to help achieve financially sustainable outcomes.
- Supporting the implementation of Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England funding reforms and policy changes for both the authority and commissioned providers.
- Building strong relationships with internal teams, external care providers, NHS partners, public health agencies and other stakeholders.

The postholder may be required to contribute to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) activity, including supporting service transformation, collaboration with partner authorities, and transition planning as required.

The role manages two direct and six indirect reports.

Who is the person?

You need:

1. To be CCAB (i.e. ICA, ACCA, CIMA or CIPFA) qualified and be able to demonstrate professional updating.

2. Demonstrable experience of building productive relationships and influencing a wide range of stakeholders, including senior managers, elected members, partners and external agencies.

3. To have experience of providing strategic financial advice to senior officers and attending management teams and working groups on finance related issues.

4. Strong leadership and people management skills, with the ability to coordinate teams, manage priorities and deliver high-quality outcomes to tight deadlines.

5. A sound knowledge of Local Government Finance, with an understanding of the wider financial and regulatory environment.

6. To have substantial experience of preparing budgets for a period of more than one year, preparing monthly budget monitoring reports and statutory year end accounts.

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

7. Experience of evaluating the financial implications of projects, business cases and service proposals, applying robust financial analysis and accounting techniques to support decision-making.

8. To be computer literate, having a high standard of spreadsheet skills including proven experience of developing and maintain complex financial models, and proficiency 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

9. Good organisational skills and be able to prioritise work & concentrate time on the most important matters to meet key deadlines.

10. Experience of leading and managing projects and driving improvements in processes and services.

11. To be resilient, adaptable and able to perform effectively during demanding periods, while embracing change and continuous improvement

12. A willingness to learn and a proactive approach to learning and personal development and professional growth.

Desirable:

13. Knowledge or experience of adult social care or public health finance experience will be considered, provided they can demonstrate a strong interest in the sector and a willingness to learn.

14. Candidates without direct education finance experience will 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.