



## **Rough Sleeping Hub Support Worker**

**Salary:** Band 5 - £26,473 - £28,239 p.a. plus 7.5% shift allowance

**Hours per week:** 37 on a rota basis

**Location:** Rough Sleeping Hub, Portsmouth

**Contract type:** Permanent

### **The Service:**

Portsmouth City Council's Housing Needs Advice & Support (HNAS) team works directly with customers to help deal with housing issues and prevent homelessness in the city. We are a busy front-line service dealing with customers who may be vulnerable and facing homelessness. We give advice, work to prevent homelessness, assist people to resolve their housing need and make assessments of housing and support needs in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Housing Act 1996 and Portsmouth City Council's Allocations Policy. We are committed to excellent customer service, and to listening to and understanding our customers' circumstances, and working collaboratively with them to identify housing solutions.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting good practice and all employees are required to adhere to internal safeguarding policies.

Getting somewhere to live isn't the end of the support needed for some of those individuals; indeed for many of them, it is just the beginning. You'll play a crucial role in preventing and relieving homelessness for the customers of our service. This approach to supporting customers facing homeless situations is underpinned by Portsmouth City Council's Homelessness Strategy for 2024-29. We are committed to excellent customer service, and to listening to and understanding our customers' circumstances, and working collaboratively with them to identify housing solutions.

### **What is the role?**

The Rough Sleeping Hub provides help for people who are street homeless, or at risk of becoming street homeless. People can access friendly and personalised support in a safe space which is open 8am - 4pm, seven days a week and 365 days a year. The Hub aims to provide a range of facilities and support for its service users, including a breakfast and hot drinks, shower and laundry facilities, lockers to store valuables and belongings, access to computers and the internet, support with healthcare needs and on-site access to Homeless Health care professionals.

Service users can also receive housing advice, use the building as a 'care of' address, receive support with benefits and bank accounts and general guidance and sign posting to other services based on their personal situation.

Reporting to the Senior Rough Sleeping Hub Support Worker, you will be part of a small team which will staff the Hub, providing rough sleepers access to the facilities and services offered. The Rough Sleeping Hub is open seven days a week, including all bank holidays, and accordingly you will work on a rota that enables this level of provision. You will be required to ensure the Rough Sleeping Hub environment is safe, secure and of high standard.

The team will manage a caseload of clients who are accessing the Hub regularly. These cases are likely to require a range of interventions as part of a tailored package of support



such as assisting with benefit claims, GP registrations, housing routes and a needle exchange service.

You will develop positive relationships with rough sleeping clients, supporting clients to identify and access appropriate services. It will be crucial for you to maintain professional boundaries with rough sleepers who may be difficult to engage with, whilst at the same time being approachable and working in a collaborative and person-centred way with them.

You will be required to respond to referrals from internal and external agencies, members of the public and to rough sleepers who self-present to the service, engaging with them to improve their health, safety and wellbeing including addressing mental health and substance misuse issues.

You will also build positive working relationships with partner agencies and will be able to evidence excellent multi-agency working to ensure best outcomes for service users. You must have experience of effectively managing a caseload and be able to assess and work with the holistic needs of a rough sleeping client. You will act as a lead professional when required and contribute to multi agency rough sleeping meetings.

At all times, you will promote the health, safety and wellbeing of both your colleagues and the service users you support, ensuring that any identified risks or safeguarding concerns are acted upon promptly and in accordance with service policies and procedures.

The role involves making and keeping accurate client records on a database and capturing information to enable data performance monitoring. You will also need to keep up to date with changes in policies and procedures, both sharing and following good practice.

### **General requirements:**

Post holders will be expected to be flexible in their duties and carry out any other duties commensurate with the banding and falling into the general scope of the role as requested by the Head of HNAS and senior management team.

Duties and responsibilities must be carried out in accordance with the relevant Portsmouth City Council policies and procedures within legislation and any code of professional ethics of relevant professional body.

All employees are expected to maintain a high standard of customer care in the context of the council's core values to uphold the Equality and Diversity Policy and health and safety standards and to participate in personal learning and development necessary to the post.

This is a full-time position. You will be expected to work flexibly at times that meet the needs of the client group, and on a staff rota that ensures consistent and high quality service provision 365 days per year. **This will include some early mornings, evenings, weekends and Bank Holiday work (shift allowances will apply).**

### **Who is the person?**

Somebody who:

- Ideally has experience working with vulnerable and homeless people, or households with housing problems, and a desire to work to resolve these issues.
- Has an awareness of the Equality Act 2010 and the Care Act 2014, and of adult safeguarding principles and procedures

- An awareness of relevant housing legislation such as the Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002 and Homeless Reduction Act 2017 would be beneficial for this role
- Is able to advocate for customers by developing positive relationships with other agencies (ie mental health services, probation, substance misuse services) and be the single point of contact if required
- Is confident in making risks assessments in relation to customers' circumstances, including identifying potential safeguarding concerns, to ensure a safe working environment at all times
- Is able to listen to people and not rush to conclusions or judgements before fully understanding what is needed or wanted by a customer.
- Has tact and diplomacy; the ability to deal with sensitive and confidential issues that may require a variety of responses. The right person will be able to manage challenging situations whilst remaining professional and objective;
- Possesses negotiating and advocacy skills
- Able to work on their own initiative and who can be proactive, and solution focused
- Able to work well within a highly functioning team, supporting your peers and supervisor to manage a caseload of clients
- Is emotionally resilient and able to deal with the impact of being exposed to customers' difficult circumstances.
- Can maintain accurate records of all clients who you come into contact with to enable concise data collection
- Has the ability to communicate clearly to colleagues, partners and customers, verbally and in writing
- Is competent in the use of IT to manage and monitor a small team's caseload effectively, recording information appropriately on the required management information system. Basic ICT skills, including the use of Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Outlook and other Office 365 applications such as SharePoint.
- Is able to work flexibly as part of a rota, which will include shifts on some weekends and bank holidays.

**Qualifications:**

Good level of literacy and numeracy as demanded by the role.

**Experience:**

- Experience of working within a community building ensuring the health, safety and security of staff, clients and visitors on site.
- Experience in working with rough sleepers, hard to reach groups and/or those with multiple and complex needs.
- Understanding the diverse complexities of rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, and the challenges they face to accessing services
- Attending multi-agency meetings in a representative capacity
- Experience of carrying out needs and risk assessments.
- Ability to challenge appropriately - this could be related to decision-making by services or customer behaviours.
- Managing a caseload of clients who are at risk of poor outcomes, undertaking 1:1 support and other interventions where required, ensuring that regular and substantive contact is made

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)**



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