



Deputy Director - Education

Salary: Band 17 - £89,707 to £98,935 per annum

Hours per week: 37

Your contractual hours are 37 hours 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

Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership safer recruitment procedures.

This role requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at Enhanced level which will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

The Service

Our Education Department delivers educational services to ensure good quality and inclusive education provision in the City. Services include, but are not limited to school improvement across schools and early years settings, pupil place planning, admissions, virtual school, SEND, home to school transport and traded services, holding responsibility for strategic planning in these areas.

What is the role?

This senior level role reports to the Director Children's Services and manages 3 senior leaders. This role spans a number of key priorities for the council including planning and reviewing the educational provision for children and young people aged 0-19, ensuring sufficient early years and childcare places, and leading education capital programmes. This role will be fundamental in driving improved educational outcomes across our settings and schools.

We will be looking to you to deliver on our education strategy and to lead a broad range of education priorities including planning and reviewing the educational provision for children and young people aged 0-19, ensuring sufficient early years and childcare places, and leading education capital programmes. This role will be fundamental in driving improved educational outcomes across our settings and schools.



This is a challenging but critical role, where you can really make a difference, developing our commitment to supporting residents with care and support needs, and making our city a healthier and happier place.

We have a strong history of working together with our partners to deliver better outcomes for our children and families:

- Corporate Plan 2024-2026
- [City Vision](#)

In this role you will be a champion of high-quality practice, with a focus on continual improvement. You will be an advocate for partnership and collaborative working, building upon our already strong city-wide relationships. Our committed and caring workforce will give you the platform to drive innovation and transformation with a focus on outcomes and learning.

You will have the opportunity to champion and represent the authority in the South-East through regional networks. You will join a strong and experienced senior leadership team, who care passionately about our children and families and empowering our workforce to deliver their best practice.

Who is the person?

You will ideally need to have:

Qualifications

- Educated to degree level or equivalent in a relevant discipline.
- Evidence of continual professional development training and management development.

Experience

- Significant achievement at senior management level within a service environment of comparable scope and complexity to the Education Service.
- Proven track record of leading, motivating and managing multi-disciplinary teams to deliver significant, sustainable improvements in service provision and outcomes.
- Experience of strategic financial management, including the evaluation of competing priorities within tight budgetary constraints and the delivery of significant financial savings.
- Experience of working in a political environment and providing local politicians with clear and balanced advice on key strategic issues.
- Experience of identifying and successfully tackling inequalities in service provision and outcomes.
- Active participation in the corporate leadership and management of a large and complex organisation, contributing to the development and delivery of corporate strategies, policies and plans.

Skills and abilities

- Ability to interpret, model and articulate a strong strategic vision for service quality and continuous improvement
- Ability to analyse complex issues, summarise key concepts and present a balanced and clear opinion
- Ability to challenge and negotiate with schools over their requirements
- Excellent communication skills, able to meet the requirements and demands of different stakeholders - written, presentations, negotiation and conversational skills
- Strong leadership skills, including the ability to both lead and support, whilst maintaining high levels of accountability throughout the organisation
- Self-motivator who is able to demonstrate high levels of self-discipline, initiative, organisation and who is able to deliver against strict and demanding deadlines
- High levels of political sensitivity, recognising both formal and informal political scenarios within an organisation
- High standards of professional integrity, whilst being resilient, determined and confident
- Visible, approachable and relational in your approach
- High degree of political awareness and sensitivity
- An ability to ensure effective management of people, services, resources and information
- Strategic and business planning experience
- Evidence of successful budgetary management and control in relation to high cost services
- Evidence of leading cross functional teams in high pressure and 'exposed' environments, including evidence of where you have contributed towards their personal and collective development

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As part of any recruitment process, Portsmouth City Council collects and processes personal data relating to all job applicants.

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of information provided as part of your application. By completing and sending an application is your consent for us to process your data for the purpose of recruitment. Your data is not used in any other way and will only be held for as long as necessary. You can withdraw consent at any point in the recruitment process by contacting the recruitment team, details of which can be found above.

For more detailed information you can access a privacy statement on our [careers portal](#).