



Residential Social Services Officer - Beechside Short Break Service

Salary: Band: 05, £25,652 - £27,363 per annum, pro rata, plus 17% shift allowance to include shift and weekend working.

Hours: 24 Hours per week - worked on a Rota

Contract: 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.

DBS Disclosure at Enhanced level will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board safer recruitment procedures.

The wider service

Children's Social Care provides social work interventions to children in need (including children with disabilities and those subject to protection plans) and children looked after and care leavers. It is the responsibility of Children's Social Care to offer a range of options for children who need homes outside their families, including foster care, children's homes, alongside adoption, special guardianship, and kinship arrangements.

Beechside Short Break Service

Beechside Short Break Service provides care and short break accommodation for up to six young people aged between 5 - 18 years. The service is tailored to meet individual children's needs, that have a learning or a physical disability, often alongside communication needs.

The aim of our service is to support children, providing them with a home away from home where they can develop confidence and flourish. 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. Our values are outlined in our Ways of Working and our Guiding Principles and if they reflect how, you are and how you work then this could be the role that meets your expectations.

The role

The key part of the role is working directly with children and young people. The role requires a child centred approach and ability to build warm, strong and positive relationships with our children and young people. You will be responsible for the day-to-day care of up to six children with a range of complex needs.

You will be expected to apply relevant legislation, policies and procedures and guidance relating to residential childcare. You will be expected to work alongside other professionals such as social workers, schools and therapists to provide a consistent team approach to manage care & risk and attend meetings with young people or represent the team at meetings.

You will work alongside children by helping them to achieve their specific individual needs and improving their future outcomes. You will be required to input information into the client database and carry out other related administrative tasks. Within the role you will also be required to attend meetings with young people or represent the team as appropriate.

You will work a rolling shift pattern, whereby you will work a variety of shifts which include earlies, lates, weekends and sleep in duties.

Main duties and responsibilities

You will:

- Develop and maintain key documents for the children we care for such as individual care plans, risk assessments and positive behaviour support plans.
- Assess the risk of each child and making arrangements to protect them from harm.
- Follow individual positive behaviour support plans including physical handling strategies such as Team Teach.
- Report and respond to any child protection concern in line with departmental procedures.
- Respond to and action any health needs of the children we care for.
- Safely handle, store and administrate medication including emergency medication.
- Provide and support children with personal care tasks following the child's individual care plans.
- Provide and support children with moving and handling tasks following the child's individual care plans.
- Provide and support children with complex health needs including PEG, Stoma and Tracheostomy care.
- Engage children in positive activities that support their positive outcomes and experiences.
- Use appropriate IT and recording systems to store and record important information.
- Carefully manage health and safety and contribute to the safe function of the home.
- Engage with activities that promote professional development.



- Maintain awareness and comply with the corporate and departmental policies and procedures.
- Willingness to undertake and support with home task and domestic duties that are involved in the running of a home such as cleaning, cooking, shopping, laundry and transporting.
- Ensure any concern is addressed and reported to management team.

Who are we looking for

You will need to:

- Have the ability to form warm and positive relationships with children to support their development and positive experiences.
- Have the ability to actively support children and encourage children to grow and flourish to their full potential.
- Have excellent communication skills, as you will be required to liaise with other agencies, parents, colleagues, and children.
- Be able to effectively engage and build relationships with children.
- Take a proactive role in keeping your own learning & development up to date.
- Understand the issues and pressures affecting children today.
- Be flexible and responsive to the unique needs of each child.
- Have good listening skills and be able to remain calm and focussed when working under pressure.
- Have good written skills to write contact sheets and reports.
- Be willing to use your initiative and make decisions around the needs of children on a day-to-day basis.
- Be flexible in being able to adapt to changing workloads of the team.
- Be able to work alone and as part of a team
- Be able to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English. This is essential for the post.

Ideally you will:

- Hold a QCF Level 3 Diploma in residential childcare. If you don't have this qualification, then you will be required to work towards within 2 years of employment.
- Professional experience of working in a residential children's setting.
- Awareness of the needs of children with learning and physical disabilities.
- Knowledge of how to safeguard and support children in a short breaks service.
- Have a driving license and a Midas qualification.