



Portsmouth Youth Justice Service (YJS) Youth Justice Practitioner - Young Futures

Salary: Band 6, £28,239 - £32,061 per annum,

Hours: 37 hours per week

Contract: Fixed Term until 31.03.2026

This post may occasionally require the post holder work on weekday evenings or weekends.

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. It is also committed to promoting quality across the City that works to improve outcomes for children.

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 Panel safer recruitment processes.

Why work in Portsmouth?

Portsmouth is a lively city that offers excellent opportunities to develop you and your career. The City is almost an island with that 'inner city' feel, with the advantages of fantastic countryside on its doorstep. With excellent commuter links to London, Brighton and with the continent only being about 4 hours away, it is the perfect place to live and work.

The Service:

Funded by the Home Office and Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit, co-ordinated within the Portsmouth Youth Justice Service (PYJS), the Portsmouth Young Futures Prevention Partnership will bring partners together to offer earlier intervention to children who may be at risk of committing anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

PYJS is situated in the Children, Families and Education Directorate of Portsmouth City Council. It is a multi-disciplinary, partnership organisation that works both within the Children and Families Services and the wider Youth Justice System.

PYJS has one over-riding aim which is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people (aged 10-17 years of age).

Our work falls broadly into 3 areas:

- Reducing First Time Entrants
- Community-based supervision of children who have offended to reduce their risk of reoffending and custody
- Resettlement of young people from custody

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

What is the role?



This motivated and committed team requires an enthusiastic and knowledgeable individual who would enjoy the challenges and opportunities of working in our service, to help us establish and develop our delivery of Young Futures Prevention interventions. Reporting to a YJS Team Leader, you will work restoratively to:

- Liaise with colleagues both within and outside the YJS in order to gather relevant information to support and inform the Young Futures Panel process.
- Liaise with children and their families to seek their consent and views for intervention to be offered.
- Liaise with parents, carer, other family members and professional networks to ensure plans are agreed and delivered *with* them to support sustainable change.
- Offer up to date information, advice and signposting to other services, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations.
- Complete high quality assessments to develop recommendations and plans.
- Hold a 'caseload' of children; planning, delivering, co-ordinating and reviewing direct interventions *with* them, under a restorative approach, to promote and build on strengths, and reduce risk and need.
- Provide direct work with children and families in a variety of settings to support them to manage challenges they may experience including offending behaviour, emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, healthy relationships, access to education and employment, housing, and income. At times, this could include small group work.
- Support access to other services where more specific, specialist or longer term support where this is required.
- Write high quality records, and present information in a variety of formats.
- Recognise and contribute towards achieving targets and key performance indicators
- Keep up to date with developments in research, practice, legislation and guidance.
- Represent the service, and the needs of our stakeholders, at meetings as required.

You will be expected to liaise with colleagues both within and outside the YJS in order to fulfil the requirements of the role. You will also be expected to carry out weekday Office Duty as part of a rota and respond to reasonable ad hoc requests.

Who is the person?

In applying for this role, you will be joining a lively, challenging and supportive team whose priority is improving outcomes for Portsmouth's children who offend or are at risk of offending.

You will also be contributing to ongoing service development in PYJS in helping us to develop our work with parents, carers and families and making links to other community-based services.

In return, we are looking for a practitioner who is:

- Highly motivated and enthusiastic
- Creative, flexible and innovative in helping colleagues and families find solutions to overcome barriers and challenges
- Keen to develop their practice skills within a multi-agency, youth justice setting

As a Youth Justice Practitioner within PYJS you will need to have:

1. A nationally recognised qualification such as NVQ level 4 or other higher level qualification or equivalent experience, in a relevant field.
2. An up to date working knowledge of safeguarding children and young people.
3. Experience of working with children, young people and families; particularly those who are more isolated and/or face multiple challenges.
4. Knowledge of the range of support services available to children and families in the City
5. Excellent assessment and analytical skills to assess, plan, review and evaluate interventions with a complex caseload.
6. Demonstrable understanding of child development and youth offending to support your work within a youth justice context.
7. A positive attitude to supporting children who experience challenges, alongside their parents and carers, and repairing any harm caused.
8. A flexible and restorative approach to service delivery, focussing on good outcomes for children, young people, their families and victims of youth crime.
9. Confidence to use your professional knowledge and experience to provide high support and high challenge and find creative ways of managing complex, difficult and sometimes volatile situations.
10. Excellent communication skills with children, young people, parents, colleagues, managers and key stakeholders. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.
11. Competent IT skills as you will be using the applications in the Microsoft Office Suite such as Outlook, Word and our own specialist database for assessment/report writing and child records.
12. High quality record keeping skills supported by a good knowledge of safe record keeping standards and information governance.
13. Ability to respond to changing priorities and to meet tight deadlines; supporting colleagues to do the same at times of stretch.
14. Ability to reflect and learn, to drive continuous improvement in service delivery and support others to do the same.
15. An understanding and commitment to multi-agency and partnership working
16. To be able to plan and facilitate shorter term interventions and/or small groups and activities to support progress where needed.
17. Access to a form of transport to be able to get around the City

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As part of any recruitment process, Portsmouth City Council collects and processes personal data relating to job applicants. Portsmouth City Council is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Completing and sending an application in for a vacancy is your consent for us to process your data for the purpose of recruitment. Your data is not used in any other way and you can withdraw your consent at any point in the recruitment process and we will destroy or delete your information.



For more detailed information on what we collect, how we use, store, delete data and your rights you can access a privacy statement on our Job board.

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