



Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist (Housing, Neighbourhoods and Building Services)

Fixed Term Contract/Secondment for 12 months

Salary: Band 8 - £35,235 - £37,937 p.a.

37 hours per week

Portsmouth City Council is committed to ensuring that, whatever accommodation a person has, they can access the right support at the right time to help them sustain it. However, domestic abuse is the third most common cause of homelessness in Portsmouth, accounting for 11% of all applications made in 2022.

For those residents experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse the Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist will provide advice and assistance regarding the options available to them, for example helping make the person's current home safe for them where that is what they want, exploring legal remedies available through the courts, or seeking alternative, safe accommodation.

The Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist will work alongside partner agencies to provide a coordinated response for people experiencing domestic abuse.

What is the role?

Working within the Housing Needs, Advice & Support team, the role of the Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist will:

- be part of a multi-disciplinary team providing specialist support to survivors of domestic abuse
- contribute to statutory activities undertaken by the council including safeguarding in the home and support to access safe accommodation.
- advise people who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic abuse regarding the options available to them, and provide the help they need to follow the right option for them
- support persons (male and female) who are experiencing domestic abuse or are using unhealthy behaviours in their relationships, which is impacting upon their welfare and that of any dependants.
- work within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) framework to engage wider local partnerships to identify and assess survivors

of domestic abuse and to provide a proactive crisis intervention to reduce risk and meet the needs of all family members

- offer emotional support and practical information about options to empower and enable survivors and household members to improve the impact of unhealthy behaviours and to develop healthy behaviours. This will include assistance with immediate safety planning and/or access to emergency accommodation as well as supporting access to other services to help meet their and their dependants needs.
- hold those who use abusing or unhealthy behaviours to account and provide support to change behaviours
- provide a restorative, strengths-based approach to meet complex households needs and manage information in a calm and professional manner
- work alongside colleagues including housing providers and advisors to provide face-to-face and telephone support, including safety planning, advocacy, crisis intervention and longer-term, sessional behaviour change and recovery work.
- manage competing priorities and demands to empower survivors to develop plans that meet the needs of their dependants and improve their household's welfare
- uphold confidentiality whilst adhering to a multi-agency model of safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people
- be responsible for continual self-learning and development and be able to deliver advice, guidance and training to both internal and external colleagues and partners
- understand the complexity of needs and circumstances of adults and young people who are experiencing abusive and unhealthy behaviours as 'victims', 'perpetrators' or 'survivors' and be able to support and empower all household members to recognise the impact and dynamics of this behaviour
- work in partnership to support survivors and perpetrators to understand the features and dynamics of making and sustaining healthy relationships with one another as well as supporting behaviour change to achieve this
- work collaboratively with relevant statutory and non-statutory partners to strengthen and maximise the impact of multi-agency plans which support the wider household and family network. Ensuring that individuals needs have been identified and addressed, including safeguarding needs and risk of harm

Who is the person?

As a Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist, you will need to:

- hold an IDVA accreditation, a relevant vocational qualification, or have experience of working within a domestic abuse service and be willing to undertake relevant training and accreditation as necessary and appropriate

- have experience of working with domestic abuse and unhealthy behaviours in a professional or voluntary capacity
- have an understanding and appreciation of the relationship features and dynamics of domestic abuse and unhealthy behaviours, and how to achieve and maintain a healthy relationship whilst exercising professional curiosity
- have the confidence and competence to communicate clearly and accurately, both verbally and in writing, with adults, young people and professionals
- can build and maintain empowering, strengths-based relationships with adults
- have a good working knowledge and experience of promoting anti-discriminatory practice and addressing equality opportunity issues
- offer a restorative approach to engage with colleagues and families
- have experience of providing evidence-based interventions to both individuals and groups
- have a working knowledge of the MARAC process, the threshold of assessing needs and risk, and the DASH Risk Identification and Assessment and Management Model
- have an ability to manage crisis and have professional resilience to respond effectively in stressful circumstances
- be confident in making safe decisions independently as well as being receptive to seeking and receiving additional professional advice and guidance from others
- experience of complex assessments, analysing information and developing strengths based, outcome focused plans with survivors that engage their household
- have good computer skills (as required to navigate electronic databases and case management systems and use Microsoft Office) and be able to keep and maintaining up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive records
- have a good knowledge of the Data Protection Act and an understanding of client confidentiality

- understand and have experience of children and adult safeguarding, both in terms of practice approaches, policy and legal processes
- maintain a keen interest in relevant local and national developments

What do staff say about working in Housing, Neighbourhoods and Buildings Service?

"It's a job where you genuinely help people"

"Housing, Neighbourhoods and Buildings Service is a real frontier service. It can be challenging, but there are great opportunities for sowing the seeds of positive change into people's lives"

"No two days are the same"

If applying as a secondment you will need permission from your current line manager releasing you for this secondment. Please state you have this on your application form.

When completing the application form, please thoroughly tailor your application to the 'Who is the Person' points with the use of examples from your experience. This is really important or you are likely not to be shortlisted.

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.