



Education, Training and Employment Support Practitioner

Portsmouth Youth Justice Service

Salary: Band 8, £35,235 - £37,397 per annum

Hours: 1FTE (37 hours per week) usually Monday to Friday (with occasional evening or weekend work if required)

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. It is also committed to promoting quality childcare 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 Partnership safer recruitment procedures.

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

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, every local authority has to ensure youth justice services operate within their area. Portsmouth Youth Justice Services (PYJS) are situated in the Children, Families and Education Directorate of Portsmouth City Council. We are a multi-disciplinary, partnership organisation that works within Children and Families Services and the wider Youth Justice System to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people (10 – 18 years of age).

We take pride in our work by valuing others; focusing on what's important so that we make a real and positive difference.

Our work falls into 3 areas:

- Supporting prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour by children and young people.
- Community-based supervision of children and young people who have offended and offering services to the Courts.
- Reducing the use of custody (including remand) and supporting resettlement of young people from custody back into their community.

As part of the above, we also offer support to the victims of youth crime and interventions to repair the harm caused by it as well as support to parents and carers of children known to us.



What is the role?

This is an exciting and unique role aiming specifically to improve education outcomes and participation rates for children known to PYJS.

Our committed service requires an enthusiastic, creative and knowledgeable practitioner to work directly with children and young people to support them to access appropriate education, training and/or employment and work towards their future goals and aspirations.

You will be based within our multi-agency team at Portsmouth Civic Offices, visiting other locations and venues as needed. You will also be working with and across both internal Education Department Teams and external education and training providers.

Reporting to a YJS Team Leader for line management and case work oversight, you will work closely with YJS colleagues to identify children known to our service who require support to access education, training and/or employment. You will work directly with those children to agree support plans with them and their parents or carers which may include delivering brief interventions yourself (such as CV writing, attending open days, skills development) and/or liaising with providers. You will also track progress against those plans with the aim of achieving successful and sustainable outcomes as part of the child's overall intervention plan.

Receiving supervision and signposting from a manager within the Education directorate, you will liaise with a range of departments, organisations and personnel to ensure each child is able to receive appropriate education, training or employment opportunities and supported to reach their full potential. This will include children who are receiving education via the secure estate, and other out of area provision, as well as those accessing local schools and services.

Assuming a lead role within YJS for this area of work, you will be our main point of contact for information sharing and advice in relation to education, training and employment and provide a key link between staff in our service and others elsewhere (e.g. schools, colleges, training providers etc). You will also support those key contacts to develop their knowledge of education, training and employment and/or youth justice processes as appropriate.

Establishing and maintaining positive working relationships with a range of colleagues, providers and other education professionals, you will maintain robust professional standards; offering professional challenge where required and receiving/acting on feedback to improve the service we offer. You will also attend a range of meetings to support this in both YJS and education fields.

You will contribute to collation and analysis of data to identify themes, trends and factors relevant to this lead area, in order to support ongoing development of opportunities for children in the City. This will at times include writing and presenting reports and data, which must be accurate and of high quality, to a variety of forums.

As part of our wider PYJS team, you will also contribute to effective delivery of youth justice services in Portsmouth as a whole through your own work and support of work done by other statutory agencies (e.g. Health, Police, Social Care, Education etc). There will also be scope to develop your skills with more generic elements of the role such as undertaking Office Duty and supporting other colleagues.

With a strong adherence to child and adult safeguarding, public protection and GDPR requirements, you will offer a vital role within this multi-disciplinary service.

Who is the person?

You need to have:

1. A Level 4 qualification in Education, Social Care, Advice and Guidance or equivalent and/or be able to demonstrate significant experience of working with children, young people and families in a youth justice or education setting.
2. Demonstrable experience of working with children (and their parents/carers or wider support networks) to identify the opportunities and barriers presented to them; seeking their views, developing a mutually agreed plan to support and increase access or participation, delivering direct work, co-ordinating and reviewing progress as required.
3. Demonstrable experience of working closely with schools, colleges and other providers to establish positive working relationships, understand what they can offer and ensure children are afforded appropriate access and support with regards to education, training and employment.
4. Demonstrable experience of working closely with a range of other personnel and departments, at all levels, to advocate for children, secure appropriate provision, remove or reduce barriers and celebrate success when it occurs.
5. Knowledge and understanding of the youth justice system, and in particular the education, training and employment related needs of children who are known to that system and the opportunities and barriers they may face.
6. Knowledge and understanding of education, training and employment services (including wider related support services) available to children of this age group, particularly (but not limited to) those within the local area.
7. Knowledge and understanding of the range of agencies who may support and/or protect children aged 10-18 years old, and their role (both broadly, and in respect of education, training and employment more specifically).
8. Knowledge and understanding of current legislation, frameworks, guidance, policies and procedures which are applicable to this role e.g. safeguarding, education/training/employment, youth justice, SEND etc.
9. Communication and interpersonal skills enabling you to perform a lead role within our service and effectively engage with all key stakeholders, including representing us at a range of meetings including contacts with families, professional planning meetings, management level reviews and strategic/senior forums, particularly with regards to education, training and employment.
10. Competence in the use of IT systems and databases, including experience of collating data to provide and present monitoring information, to demonstrate progress and/or constructively contribute to problem solving approaches.
11. Proven ability to work autonomously and on your own initiative (with management support) as part of a high functioning, and fast-paced service.

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