

Youth Justice Practitioner (Qualified)

Salary: Band 9 - £39,151 to £42,838 per annum

Hours: Full time (37 hours per week) including occasional evenings and Saturdays/Bank Holidays by rota.

Contract: Permanent

Portsmouth Local Authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment, 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 Board safer recruitment procedures.

The Service

Portsmouth Youth Justice Service is a multi-disciplinary team that works both within Children's Services and the Criminal Justice System. Our over-riding aim is to prevent offending and reoffending by children (10-17 years of age).

We work with children who are subject to Out of Court Resolutions and Court Orders (including custodial sentences) and their families, and the victims of youth crime. We do this through a process of engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, review and closure, using a restorative and inclusive approach throughout.

We work closely with partnership services such as police, probation, health, housing, children's social care, schools and education authorities, charities and the local community to ensure the individuals we work with are giving the best opportunities to live a life free of crime and achieve positive outcomes.

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

What is the role?

Our innovative team requires an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Qualified Youth Justice Practitioner, who would enjoy the challenge of working in this important service for Portsmouth's children, to cover a fixed term position. You will be required to carry a complex caseload of children receiving support, supervision and intervention by the Youth Justice Service.

You will be expected to liaise with colleagues both within and outside the Service in order to gather the relevant information to complete high quality assessments and deliver high quality interventions to reduce likelihood of reoffending and risk of serious harm to others, whilst support the child's safety and wellbeing.

You will have overall responsibility for the co-ordination of interventions of children on your caseload, and ensuring your work is delivered within a timely, evidenced-based and restorative approach.

In addition, you will be expected to carry out a range of duties in support of these roles. These can include attending Out of Court Disposal clinics, undertaking Court Duty, writing formal Reports, delivering individual and group-based programmes of intervention in line with assessed risk and need, co-ordinating the input of other professionals as required and working with parents, carers and wider families to support our overall aims.

If successful in applying for this post you will be joining a lively and supportive team whose priority is in improving outcomes for Portsmouth's children who have offended and may be at risk of doing so again. In return we are looking for a practitioner who is:

- Highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- Creative, flexible and innovative in helping children and their families find solutions to the challenges they face.
- Keen to develop their practice skills within a multi-agency setting and/or their knowledge of Youth Justice.

Who is the person?

You need to:

1. Have a professional qualification in a relevant discipline (e.g. Social Work or equivalent in Probation, Education, Health etc) with current registration (where professional registration is required).
2. Have extensive experience of working within Youth Justice or be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of this area of work.
3. Have excellent knowledge and skills in the area of assessment/planning and be competent in using a range of interventions with children aged 10-17.
4. Demonstrate confidence in working within timescales when undertaking this work.
5. Have a sound understanding of Restorative Justice and the benefits this approach provides.
6. Be able to work as part of a team to ensure a smooth delivery of the service and be flexible in being able to adapt to the changing needs of the team.
7. Maintain a professional child centred approach.
8. Have a sound understanding on the experiences and management of children displaying high levels of risk and/or vulnerability.
9. Have good communication and interpersonal skills, as you will be liaising with people from many different agencies as well as with children and their families.
10. Be self-motivated and able to use your own initiative whilst working within the scope of policies and procedures in place.
11. Have problem solving skills when dealing with the variety of challenges.
12. Be calm and organised to enable you to meet the daily deadlines whilst working within this busy service.
13. Advocate, where appropriate, on behalf of the child when creating, reviewing or challenging plans.
14. Have 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 client records and the maintaining of those records.

15. Use your professional knowledge and experience to challenge plans or situations and show highly creative ways of managing complex situations.

A full driving licence and the use of a car would be desirable.

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

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.