

Portage Home Visitor

Salary: Band 7, **£31,067 to £35,235** per annum full time equivalent

Contract: **Permanent**, Term Time Only (39 weeks plus 15 additional days per year)

Hours: **Full time** (37 hours per week), worked flexibly across Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm

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 Board safer recruitment procedures.

The Portage Service

Portage is a nationally and internationally recognised home visiting educational service for families and carers with pre-school children (0-4 years old) with SEND (special educational needs or disability).

The Portage team based at the Civic Offices are an integral part of the Inclusion Service. Inclusion delivers a range of support services that aim to remove the barriers to achievement for all Portsmouth children and young people, in particular those with special educational needs or from vulnerable groups. This includes enabling children and young people to benefit from education or training, with support, if necessary, to ensure that they can make progress in their learning, build and maintain positive social and family relationships, develop emotional resilience and make successful transitions to employment, higher education and independent living.

The Portage team aims to support the development and learning of pre-school (ages 0-4 years) children with developmental delay or SEND. The team deliver Portage and Portage Plus (Portage Plus focuses on social communication difficulties) programmes at home and in early years settings, working closely with parents, carers and early years staff as well as directly with children.

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 who you are and how you work then this could be the role that meets your expectations.

What is the role?

As a Portage Home Visitor you will deliver a specialist, individually tailored package of assessment, monitoring and early intervention using the Portage model for pre-school children (ages 0-4 years) with SEND and their families. You will deliver Portage Plus, supporting neurodiverse needs such as social communication difficulties through an intensive specialist, educational service delivered at home.

In delivering Portage or Portage Plus, you will:

- Manage an allocated caseload of children and their families.
- Carry out a developmental assessment of the child, identifying with parents/carers and relevant professionals', goals for learning to support all areas of development i.e. play, communication, relationships, behaviour and learning in common with the Portage Small Steps Approach.
- Provide resources, materials and equipment to deliver individualised educational activities in partnership with the parents, carers and settings for planned play, learning and developmental activities to stimulate and develop skills.
- Support parents and early years staff in using strategies, techniques by working collaboratively with parents and practitioners sensory needs etc.
- Maintain electronic records, reflecting progress and difficulties and produce reports to inform parents, carers, professionals, Early Years Panel and to contribute to Education, Health and Care Plans when required.
- Support parents and families in their child's learning and contribute to regular multi-agency meetings, providing constructive feedback on progress, achievements and identified needs.
- Support parents at their early stages of an emotional journey, supporting, signposting or referring on to parenting and family support etc.
- Support parents/carers or act as advocate in presenting their view of their child's needs with other services/professionals as required.

Multi-agency working

- Liaise with other agencies and professionals relevant to the co-ordination and support of children with additional support needs.
- Share information across agencies and professional groups, working closely with other services such as Educational Psychology, Therapies, Paediatrics, Health Visiting, Social Care, Early Help etc.
- Incorporate or implement agreed programmes with relevant multi-agency professionals.
- Identify, prioritise and coordinate key issues for the family and child, completing or contributing to plans such as an Education, Health and Care Plan if appropriate and acting as Lead Professional as required.

Training and support

- Contribute to the training in the principles and practice of Portage, inclusion and working with children with SEND.
- Advise and assist colleagues who have concerns about the progress of

individual children and take steps to reduce the barriers that prevents a child participating fully in activities and experiences offered by a setting or service, including by suggesting appropriate activities, goals and outcomes for children.

Transition

- Support significant transition points e.g. from home to early years setting, early years setting to school.

Who is the person?

You need to have:

- **Level 3 diploma (or higher) for Early Years Educator/Practitioner** or other relevant qualification with an underpinning knowledge of child development (0-5 years). Applications from those with a degree/foundation degree (or equivalent) in early childhood studies or child development are welcome.
- Experience of working directly with, and implementing strategies and interventions for, pre school age **children 0-4 years** who have **SEND or neurodiversity**. Applications from those with experience working in specialist provisions, early years practitioner, teacher, SENCo, therapist or therapy assistant (SALT, OT, Physio) are encouraged.
- Experience or awareness of working in partnership with families and early years settings.
- Evidence of completion of the Portage Workshop, delivered by accredited trainers of the National Portage Association, or willingness to undertake this training.
- Relevant training to support children with SEND, such as Makaton, PECS, Attention Autism, Curiosity. (Please mention in your personal statement what kinds of training you have undertaken; further training will be provided as part of the role.)
- Knowledge related to SEND, Neurodiversity / Autism and Social Communication needs.
- The ability to use your professional skills, knowledge, and experience of child development to assess, set targets, review and promote development.
- Experience of working in a people-focused way, in partnership with parents/carers, early years practitioners and other relevant professionals.
- Proven skills to work collaboratively as part of a team, supporting, sharing knowledge and skills as well as attending and contributing to regular supervision sessions.
- An understanding of the diversity of the children's needs, their families and carers requiring you to be flexible, inclusive, adaptable, and understanding of their unique and differing needs whilst maintaining a sense of humour and professionalism.
- The ability to build and maintain appropriate, trusting, respectful and supportive relationships and maintain personal and professional boundaries with all carers and children retaining empathy and yet the

ability to challenge and influence.

- Resilience, integrity and strength to manage emotionally laden situations, supporting families experiencing a range of anxieties, difficulties and challenges.
- The ability to work in potentially difficult physical situations e.g. on the floor in homes and nurseries, as well as carrying bags with heavy or awkward resources.
- You must have a driving licence and access to a car, or be able to access public transport or other means to reach locations across the whole city for home and nursery visits, transporting or carrying resources.
- Competence and experience in using basic IT tools, including Microsoft Word.

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.