

Qualified Social Worker - Adoption

Salary: Experienced Social Worker - Band 10, £41,510 to £45,718 per annum

Hours: Full time (37 hours per week)

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:

The children's Adoption Team is part of the Children We Care For Service and supports children and their families when adoption is considered as a permanent option for the child.

Portsmouth Adoption Agency works in partnership with the Regional Adoption Agency Adopt South which recruits and assesses prospective adoptive families.

The Adoption Team collaborates with Adopt South to identify the best match for a child waiting for an adoptive family.

What is the role?

You will be:

- Parallel Planning where the Local Authority is considering adoption as one of the permanence options for a child. This entails working alongside the allocated Social Worker in the Family Support and Safeguarding Service to prepare the Child Permanence Report and supporting documents that are presented to the Agency Decision Maker to consider a plan of adoption.

Multi-agency working is required as well as engaging with the child and their family to gather information needed to ensure there is a clear picture of the whole family's circumstances and the child's life story and holistic needs.

- Working alongside Adopt South Family Finding Team to identify prospective adopters for children subject to Placement Orders and for those children who need to move to Fostering For Adoption/Early Permanence families.

- Progressing the linking process through information sharing and presentation to adoption panel. Preparing adoption placement reports and adoption support plans to enable the panel and subsequently the Agency Decision Maker to consider the proposed link.
- Plan, support and facilitate the child's transition into their prospective adoptive family's care and subsequently undertake all statutory tasks until the point of the adoption order.
- Prepare Annex A reports in support of the adoption order application. Prepare court statements and attend court in response to applications challenging the adoption process as well as for the adoption order hearing.
- Supporting birth family members as they say goodbye to their children moving to adoption but also set up considered and appropriate Keeping In Touch arrangements so that these relationships can be maintained through mailbox contact or direct contact plans post adoption. Work in partnership with Adopt South KIT team to establish these arrangements.
- Assess the child and family's adoption support needs. If needed, identify therapeutic interventions and make applications to the Adoption Support Fund in collaboration with Adopt South.

Who is the person?

You need to:

1. Have a diploma in social work or equivalent, be registered with Social Work England and have a good amount of experience in children's social work.
2. Have a sound understanding of the needs of Looked After Children and permanence.
3. Have a good understanding of the effects of early life experiences on a child's attachment, emotional and physical development.
4. Have a clear understanding of legislation around children and safeguarding.
5. Committed to ongoing professional development, using evidence based research to inform assessments and matching recommendations.
6. Have excellent assessment skills to enable you to identify suitable adopters to make recommendations regarding matches with children.
7. Have strong communication skills to enable you to communicate with children, families and other agencies.
8. Highly competent in producing clear, evidence based analytical assessment reports for families, adoption panels and courts within government and departmental timescales.

9. Be flexible, to accommodate the needs of the service and adoption community in offering visits at evenings and weekends.
10. Be resilient and supportive member of the team, and solution focused.
11. Be willing to travel some distances using most efficient means- this can often include using a hire car, so a driving licence 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.