



Qualified Social Worker - Fostering Service - Supervising and supporting approved foster carers

Salary: Qualified Social Worker: Band 9, £39,151 to £42,838 per annum (You will need to have completed your ASYE for the Band 9 role)
Experienced Social Worker: Band 10, £42,838 to £47,181 per annum

Hours: 37 hours per week

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 Board safer recruitment procedures.

Why would you come and work for Children's Social Care in Portsmouth?

Our service is committed to high standards and a culture of restorative practice. We are continuing to increase foster carer numbers and the menu of support to carers year on year. This is an exciting time to join Portsmouth City Council Fostering Service as we strive to further enhance outcomes for the children we care for. We are committed to professional development and the provision of training to staff and all our carers.

As a fostering service we recognise that children need diversity of carers whilst they cannot live with their parents. We support approved foster carers, kinship carers, private foster carers and offer a range of support including formal supervision, training, mentoring, support groups, social events.

We have a fantastic cohort of carers who are committed to Portsmouth and the children we care for. The vast majority of those children live with our own foster carers. We are creative and open to new ways of working: having launched the Fostering Network Mockingbird model of care in 2021 we now have a well-established and successful Mockingbird community of carers. We have foster carers partnered with each other to provide breaks as needed and a range of support groups. We offer child and parent care and always looking to build on our service. Our Fostering Service have a wealth of knowledge and skills through learning and development offer including Motivational Interviewing and DDP.

As a small local authority, we have strong working relationships with our children's teams and which enhances working together always to achieve best outcomes for our children. Feedback from one of our foster carers -describes us as 'small but mighty' 'a real community'.



If you are seeking a change and are motivated to support our carers supporting children, we have an opportunity for you to join us. This is an ideal opportunity to use your knowledge and experience of working with foster carers and children we care for to supervise and enhance the development of foster carers. We want individuals to champion the very best social work practice, who are motivated, flexible, enthusiastic, passionate and with a "can do" attitude who share our passion for improving children's and young people's lives.

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 appeal then this could be the job for you. Portsmouth received their "Good" Ofsted rating in 2023 which reflects the excellent work we do with Children and Families in the city.

What is the role?

This is a role for a qualified social worker with experience of working with children we care for and/or foster carers: a 'can-do' person interested in joining our established fostering support team.

Supervising social workers manage and support a caseload of foster carers to provide excellent care to ensure the best outcomes for children we care for and supporting carers to apply a trauma-informed approach in their care of children. The role of the supervising social worker is critical in supporting the carer to develop good relationships with children and their families, providing stable nurturing family homes for as long as the children need to be with them.

Supervising social workers support foster carers as members of the team around the child developing good working relationships with a range of professionals involved with children and their families. Supervising social workers have a sound understanding of the statutory duties of a fostering service and are able to work to statutory and service timescales.

There is a range of care types within the fostering service, including the Mockingbird Model of Care with which supervising social workers are involved.

Portsmouth provides comprehensive support to carers, including a duty rota system during working hours, training pathway, support groups, carer mentoring scheme, social events and an out of hours service to carers.

Whilst the above is a specific role, as a member of the whole fostering service there are also opportunities in our other service teams, including:

- Recruitment events, initial visits and skills to foster training for new potential foster carers
- Undertake assessments of mainstream or kinship foster carers
- Offer support on the out of hours rota for which there is an additional payment.
- Facilitate carer support groups and training to enable carers to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- Contribute to the service business development plan with leading on new projects

Who is the person?

You will:

- Be a qualified social worker and be registered with Social Work England.
- Have suitable post-qualifying experience in children and families work, including experience of working with children we care for and/or foster carers.
- Understand models of therapeutic parenting that enable you to support carers to meet the needs of traumatised children and promote placement stability.
- Be motivated to achieve excellent outcomes for children and be able to celebrate success and also challenge poor practice.
- Have a sound understanding of legislation and care standards relating to children, fostering and safeguarding.
- Have strong communication skills which enable you to communicate with children, families, fellow professionals including foster carers and other agencies and to challenge as appropriate. The ability to converse at ease with service users and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.
- Have excellent presentation skills to support the production and delivery of virtual and face to face training for carers.
- Use restorative practice working with carers, families and professionals.
- Be solution focused, openly communicate and explore issues that may be challenging for potential carers or approved carers.
- Have good written skills and be able to gather record and maintain accurate information in a clear and concise way to support your work, producing coherent and analytical reports.
- Be someone who enjoys a busy atmosphere who can cope with competing demands and the challenges that come with them.
- Be a resilient, supportive, and a flexible team member with a willingness to participate in other team tasks in the fostering service.
- Be able to work on your own initiative, be flexible and prioritise a caseload to meet timescales.
- Be able to analyse and risk assess with a child centred focus complex data in order to ensure placements for children are safe, stable and will meet the child's short or long term needs as appropriate.
- Be motivated to achieve good outcomes for children and able to challenge poor practice.
- Be computer literate using MSTEAMs. One drive, Outlook and database systems.
- Be willing to participate in the Out of Hours Foster Carers Support Service.
- Be able to meet the travel commitments of the post when assessing or supporting carers outside Portsmouth City including overnight stays if required.

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.