



Family Support Worker (Belong, therapeutic hub)

Salary: Band 7, £33,119 to 37,562 per annum.

Hours: Full-time 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. Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership safer recruitment procedures.

This role requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at Standard/Enhanced level which will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

The Service

The Belong Therapeutic Hub is an exciting, new and innovative service designed to improve outcomes for children and young people who are currently living in alternative care outside of Portsmouth. The hub brings together therapeutic, social care and fostering expertise to identify children who may benefit from moving from residential placements into stable, nurturing foster families.

Belong is committed to providing children with a strong sense of belonging, security and permanence through carefully planned transitions, therapeutic support and sustained relationship-based practice. The service recognises that many children in residential care have experienced significant trauma, loss, instability and disrupted relationships. Our approach focuses on understanding each child's individual needs and supporting them to build trusting relationships with foster carers and the wider support network around them.

A key feature of the Belong Therapeutic Hub is a staff team of dedicated workers inclusive of a Child Psychologist, who will work as part of the multi-disciplinary team. The psychologist will contribute to assessments, formulation, consultation group and 1:1 work and therapeutic planning, helping carers and professionals better understand each child's experiences, behaviours and relational needs.

The Hub's practice model is underpinned by a strong therapeutic ethos utilising PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy), Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) and relationship-based practice. The team will work collaboratively to create therapeutic environments where children feel safe, understood and connected. Foster carers, children and professionals will be supported to develop secure relationships that promote healing, resilience and long-term stability.

We are looking for an experienced and highly motivated person who is passionate about making a difference to the lives of children and young people. The role will be central to supporting children, foster carers and professionals throughout their journey within the Belong project.

Applications are welcomed from experienced Family Support Workers or individuals with a related professional background, such as youth work, residential childcare, family



intervention, education, therapeutic support, children's services, fostering services or other roles involving direct work with vulnerable children and families. We recognise that valuable skills and experience can be gained through a variety of professional pathways.

What is the Role?

As a Family Support Worker within the Belong Therapeutic Hub, you will provide advice, guidance, and support to foster carers and the children in their care. You will manage a caseload and work directly with children, foster carers, and families to meet needs and improve outcomes.

You will deliver targeted interventions, working collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary team across areas such as emotional wellbeing, behavioural challenges, family time, education, and substance misuse.

You will empower foster carers, children and families through a restorative, strengths-based approach and represent the service at meetings, educational settings, and community events.

You will play a key role in promoting stability for foster carers and children across Portsmouth.

Who is the person?

As a Family Support Worker within the Belong Therapeutic Hub, you will have:

- A relevant qualification (e.g. NVQ Level 4 or equivalent experience)
- Strong knowledge of safeguarding, fostering, and children's legislation
- Understanding of therapeutic parenting approaches
- Insight into child development and trauma-informed practice
- Experience of working with families and delivering support interventions
- Excellent communication and relationship-building skills
- Ability to manage changing priorities and meet deadlines
- A collaborative, multi-agency working approach
- Strong assessment, recording, and report-writing skills
- A flexible and positive attitude focused on achieving the best outcomes
- A driving licence and access to transport (or ability to travel across Portsmouth) is essential
- Occasional evening and out-of-hours work will be required

Additional information:

If you have any questions, or would like an informal discussion about the role, please email Sarah Smith at Sarah.Smith2@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or Donna Parnum Donna.parnum@portsmouthcc.gov.uk



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.

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

