



Senior Health Commissioning Manager – Family First Partnership Programme

Salary: Band 13 - £60,906 - £68,200 per annum

Hours per week: 37 hours per week

Contract type: 1 Year Fixed Term contract

Location: Civic Offices with regular travel across the ICB footprint.

Hybrid Working: Office attendance is required minimum 2-days a week for full time staff, this remains flexible, subject to business needs.

Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults, children, and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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.

This role works in partnership with health. / You will be managed by a health manager.

The Service (include department)

The Family First Partnership Programme brings together NHS, local authorities, and voluntary sector partners across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families. It focuses on integrating child health services, embedding safeguarding, reducing inequalities, and delivering high-quality, sustainable pathways that align with national policy and local ICS priorities.

What is the role?

To provide senior-level support to Strategic Commissioner responsible for the delivery of the Family First Partnership Programme across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The post holder will be the leading voice for NHS commissioning and safeguarding across the footprint, advocating for the great possible joint working and integration. Leading the operational delivery of commissioning priorities and delivery structures for child health services in this Programme the postholder will:

- **Leading child health conversations** as the key contact for local authority Family First Partnership Programme leads.
- **Work in close partnership** with the Safeguarding Director and Senior Designated Nurses for Children and Looked After Children to ensure that safeguarding requirements are embedded into strategic commissioning priorities
- **Translating strategic commissioning priorities into actionable projects** by developing clear plans, timelines, and resource requirements that align with national policy and local Integrated Care System objectives for child health services as part of the Family First Partnership Programme.

- **Managing programmes** to ensure the intentions for commissioned child health services meet agreed quality standards, statutory obligations (including safeguarding and equality legislation), and financial targets.
- **Conducting analysis and needs assessments** using population health data, service usage trends, and outcome measures to identify gaps in child health provision and inform system change directly related to the Programme.
- **Engaging stakeholders and service users** across the whole footprint, through effective partnership working with providers, local authorities, voluntary organisations, and co-production with people with lived experience, families, and carers to shape and improve services.

Who is the person?

You are a senior, strategic commissioning leader with extensive experience in children's health and care, capable of operating effectively within complex, multi-agency environments spanning health, local authority, and voluntary sector systems. You bring a strong track record of leading transformation, influencing at senior levels, and delivering measurable improvements in outcomes for children, young people, and families.

You are confident navigating ambiguity and complexity, working across organisational boundaries to align priorities, resources, and delivery. You combine deep subject matter expertise with strong strategic insight, enabling you to translate national policy, safeguarding responsibilities, and integrated care system priorities into practical, high-impact commissioning solutions. You are equally comfortable leading programmes, shaping service models, and providing assurance at senior governance forums.

You are highly collaborative in approach, building trusted relationships with a wide range of stakeholders including clinicians, commissioners, local authority leaders, and community partners. You are committed to co-production, ensuring that the voices of children, families, and carers are central to service design and improvement. With excellent communication, analytical, and decision-making skills, you are able to balance competing demands, manage risk, and drive sustainable, system-wide change.

You will demonstrate:

Leadership, Partnership & Influence

- Proven ability to lead and influence at a senior level across organisational boundaries, working with ICB teams, NHS providers, local authorities, and wider partners
- Strong partnership-building skills, with experience of collaborative, system-wide working and co-design with service users, families, carers, and professionals
- Confidence engaging, negotiating and presenting to senior stakeholders on complex or sensitive issues

Commissioning Expertise & Strategic Insight

- Significant experience of full commissioning cycles, including needs assessment, service design, procurement, contract management, and performance oversight
- Ability to interpret and apply national policy, legislation, and ICS priorities (including safeguarding and children's statutory frameworks) to drive service transformation



- Strong understanding of the needs of children, young people, and vulnerable groups, and the factors influencing outcomes and inequalities

Analytical & Decision-Making Capability

- Highly developed analytical skills, with the ability to interpret complex qualitative and quantitative data and translate this into clear insights, plans, and recommendations
- Sound judgement in balancing strategic, operational, and financial considerations, including resolving complex or contentious issues
- Strategic thinking with the ability to anticipate risks, identify opportunities, and shape long-term direction

Programme Delivery & Organisational Skills

- Experience leading complex, multi-agency programmes, including planning, risk management, resource allocation, and delivery against KPIs
- Ability to manage competing priorities, adapt to changing demands, and ensure delivery within governance and performance frameworks
- Skilled in developing business cases, managing budgets, and ensuring value for money and compliance with financial and governance requirements

Communication & Engagement Skills

- Excellent written, verbal, and presentation skills, with the ability to communicate complex information clearly and concisely to a range of audiences
- Ability to produce high-quality reports, briefings, and recommendations to inform senior decision-making
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively within high-performing teams

Knowledge & Professional Requirements

- Educated to master's level (or equivalent experience) with evidence of continued professional development
- Extensive knowledge of safeguarding practice, legislation, and national guidance
- Strong understanding of children's services policy, including the Children Act, SEND framework, and NHS strategic direction
- Proficient in MS Office, with the ability to use data and digital tools to support decision-making (advanced analytical tools desirable)

Additional Requirements

- Ability to communicate effectively in spoken English
- Right to work in the UK
- Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults
- Willingness to travel across the ICS footprint and work flexibly as 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)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).