



Childcare Solicitor

Salary: Band: 10 - 12 - £42,838 to £56,759 p.a. depending on level of experience

Hours: 37 hours per week

Contract: Permanent

The Legal Service Team

Portsmouth Legal Services is a friendly hardworking and dedicated team of approximately 40 lawyers and assistant staff who provide commercial and litigation support to the Council departments. We are committed to ensuring an excellent service in all aspects of our work.

The Childcare Team offers a friendly and supportive environment. Team management is supportive and dedicated to providing good outcomes for children in challenging and demanding circumstances. We work closely with Children's Social Care and it is a small but hardworking team who manage the specific difficulties of this role with resilience and support.

Your New Role

The role is within the Legal Service based in the Civic Offices however flexible working will be considered and remote working is currently in place.

You can expect considerable autonomy as you take on your own caseload and work as part of an in-house team. You will advise on all aspects of childcare, you will conduct negotiations, execute agreements and documents and co-ordinate court proceedings. You may also be asked to enhance your skills base to include other litigation as determined by the Head of Litigation. An ability to work in a busy stable and multi-skilled team with a clear structure of support and experience is to be welcomed and is available to the candidate.

We offer hybrid working, minimum attendance is 2 days per week and expectation that you will attend to suit the needs of the client

Who is the person?

You will:

1. Be a qualified solicitor, barrister or legal executive
2. Have a detailed knowledge and experience of Childcare law. (This said applications from suitably qualified persons with less experience will be considered).
3. Have an ability and interest in advocacy, being able to deal with case management hearings, directions and issue resolution hearings. Candidates who wish to undertake contested hearing are encouraged to apply.



4. Have an ability to provide urgent advice to Children Social Care and assist in determining plans for children within the city. This includes working with Senior Management in Children Social Care to decide on cases going in to PLO and proceedings.
5. On occasions be asked to carry out supervisory duties (according to your own seniority and as delegated by the Deputy City Solicitor)
6. Be organised and have attention to detail as you will be dealing with a varied workload and be expected to ensure work is completed within agreed timescales and ensuring excellent outcomes.
7. Competent IT skills and be able to work to a Lexcel standard with an ability to file manage with some administrative support being provided together with a case management system.
8. Have excellent communication and influencing skills as you will be dealing with people at all levels of the organisation and need to ensure your advice is understood and implemented to eradicate any unnecessary exposure.
9. Be able to work as part of a team to ensure a smooth delivery of the service and be flexible in being able to adapt to the changing needs of the team.
10. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

Additional information:

If you have any questions, or would like an informal discussion about the role, please call Ciara Morgan on 023 92 834600 or Helen Dickeson on 023 92841108.

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.