



## **Portsmouth Youth Justice Service (PYJS) Youth Justice Practitioner - (Turnaround)**

**Salary:** Band 6, £28,239 - £32,061 per annum

**Hours:** 37 hours per week (This post may occasionally require work on weekday evenings).

**Contract:** Fixed Term until 31.03.2029

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 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 Panel safer recruitment processes.

### **Why work in Portsmouth?**

Portsmouth is a lively city that offers excellent opportunities to develop you and your career. The City is almost an island with that 'inner city' feel, with the advantages of fantastic countryside on its doorstep. With excellent commuter links to London, Brighton and with the continent only being about 4 hours away, it is the perfect place to live and work.

### **The Service:**

Every Local Authority has to ensure youth justice services operate within their area.

Portsmouth Youth Justice Services are situated in the Children, Families and Education Directorate of Portsmouth City Council. We are a multi-disciplinary, partnership organisation that works both within the Children and Families Services and the Youth Justice System.

PYJS has one over-riding aim which is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people (aged 10-17 years of age). Our work falls broadly into 3 areas:

- Reducing First Time Entrants
- Community-based supervision of children who have offended to reduce their risk of reoffending and custody.
- Resettlement of young people from custody

As a service, we take pride in our work by valuing others, focussing on what's important so that we make a real and positive difference.

### **What is the role?**

We require an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Youth Justice Practitioner to deliver our 'Turnaround' project - working with children (and their families) who are on the cusp of the



youth justice system, with the aim of preventing them from entering it at a later stage. This may include children who have engaged in repeated anti-social behaviour, been interviewed by police or released under investigation/on police bail or been made subject to disposals such as Youth Community Resolutions.

Reporting to a YJS Team Leader, you will work restoratively to:

- Liaise with colleagues both within and outside the YJS to share relevant information to support and inform 'Turnaround' delivery.
- Complete high-quality assessments of safety and wellbeing, safety for others and concerns about future offending to develop intervention recommendations and plans.
- Work directly with children; planning, delivering, co-ordinating and reviewing direct interventions with them, under a restorative approach, to reduce the risks posed.
- Liaise with parents, carer, other family members and professional networks to ensure plans are agreed and delivered *with* them to support sustainable change.
- Provide direct work with children and families in a variety of settings to support them to manage challenges they may experience including (but not limited to) offending or anti-social behaviour, emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, healthy relationships, access to education and employment, housing, and income.
- Deliver or co-deliver group interventions on a range of related themes.
- Offer up to date information, advice and signposting; supporting access to other services where more specific, specialist or longer-term support where this is required.
- Keep accurate records, write high quality reports, and present information in a variety of formats.
- Recognise and contribute towards Key Performance Indicators for the YJS
- Keep up to date with developments in research, practice, legislation and guidance, particularly those linked to prevention of, and diversion from, youth crime.
- Represent the service, and the needs of our stakeholders, at meetings as required.

While the post is based at Portsmouth Civic Offices, you will be expected to adopt an out-reach approach meeting children and families, and engaging with services, in a variety of community settings across the city. You will also be expected to carry out weekday 'Office Duty' cover via rota and build strong relationships with colleagues both within and outside the team.

### **Who is the person?**

The successful applicant will be joining a lively, challenging and supportive team whose priority is improving outcomes for children who are at risk of offending or re-offending. We are looking for a practitioner who is:

- Highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- Able to work under pressure and to deadlines set.
- Creative, flexible and innovative in helping colleagues and families find solutions to overcome barriers and challenges.
- Keen to develop their practice skills within a multi-agency, youth justice setting.

As a Youth Justice Practitioner for Turnaround, you will need to have:

- A nationally recognised qualification such as NVQ level 4 or other higher-level qualification or equivalent experience in a relevant field.
- An up-to-date working knowledge of safeguarding children and young people.
- Experience of working directly with children, young people and families; particularly those who are more isolated and/or face multiple challenges.
- Excellent assessment and analytical skills to assess, plan, deliver review and evaluate interventions within agreed timescales.
- Demonstrable knowledge of child development and youth offending to support your work within a prevent/diversion/youth justice context.
- A flexible and restorative approach to service delivery, focussing on good outcomes for children, young people, their families and victims of youth crime.
- Confidence to use your professional knowledge and experience to provide high support and high challenge and find creative ways of managing complex, difficult and sometimes volatile situations.
- Excellent communication skills with children, young people, parents, colleagues, managers and key stakeholders. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.
- Competent IT skills including use of applications in the Microsoft Office Suite such as Outlook, Word, Excel, SharePoint, and ability to navigate our own specialist database for assessment/report writing and client records.
- High quality record keeping skills supported by a good knowledge of safe record keeping standards and information governance.
- Ability to respond to changing priorities and to meet tight deadlines; supporting colleagues to do the same at times of stretch.
- Ability to reflect and learn, to drive continuous improvement in service delivery and support others to do the same.
- An understanding and commitment to multi-agency and partnership working.
- To be able to plan and facilitate shorter term interventions and/or small groups and activities to support progress where needed.
- Access to a form of transport to be able to get around the City.

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](#).