

Housing Triage Officer - Housing Needs Advice & Support

Salary: Band 5 - £26,473 - £28,239 p.a.

37 hours per week

Permanent

Housing Needs Advice & Support is recruiting for the role of Housing Triage Officer. The Housing Triage Officer is the first point of contact for customers needing help and advice with housing. This is an exciting and varied role dealing with a wide range of enquiries, giving advice and referring customers for further assessment where needed.

Portsmouth City Council:

At Portsmouth City Council we're all about developing our staff, because we want to build a bigger and better city, but we need the best employees to do so.

With a little over 207,000 residents and 7,000 businesses throughout this city, this unitary authority's main goal is to ensure the best care and development of all those within the city. From customer service to multi-million pound projects, our residents are at the heart of everything we do.

Your New Role:

Portsmouth City Council's Housing Needs Advice & Support team works directly with customers to deal with housing issues and prevent homelessness in the city. We are a busy front-line service dealing with customers who may be vulnerable and facing homelessness. We give advice, work to prevent homelessness, assist people to resolve their housing need and make assessments of housing and support needs in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Housing Act 1996 and Portsmouth City Council's Allocations Policy. We are committed to excellent customer service, and to listening to and understanding our customers' circumstances and working collaboratively with them to identify housing solutions. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting good practise and all employees are required to adhere to internal safeguarding policies.

You will be part of a team which deals with the initial contact from customers face to face and by telephone and email. You will need to listen carefully to understand the circumstances of each customer, showing understanding and empathy to each person. You will make an initial assessment of each customer's circumstances, and gather information and ask questions to clarify the circumstances. You will give advice on a range of housing issues including the Portsmouth Housing Register, homelessness and private renting. You will deal with enquiries yourself, explaining the criteria for accessing social housing and where appropriate will signpost to other relevant services. Where further assessment is required, you will understand the main presenting demand and identify the correct team to continue the assessment with the customer. Using our IT systems, you will make clear records of each contact. You will undertake other administrative duties as required.

You will need excellent listening skills, patience and empathy as well as resilience and an ability to think on your feet and manage multiple priorities. This is an excellent opportunity if you are looking for a career in housing as you will gain a wide range of experience and knowledge and an opportunity to enhance your skills working with customers.

Who is the person?

We are looking for somebody who:

- Has an interest and experience of the issues facing vulnerable and homeless people and households with housing needs, and a desire to work to assist customers to resolve these issues.
- Has excellent listening skills and is able process and gather information to understand what is needed and wanted by a customer.
- Is confident and can clearly and effectively communicate both verbally and in writing, giving advice and explaining housing policy to our customers.
- Has excellent organisational skills, and an ability to prioritise work and organise the daily demand from customers to the service.
- Is flexible and able to respond to changing priorities and levels of customer demand.
- Is an excellent team player.
- Is able to show empathy and understanding to customers contacting the service and deal tactfully and sensitively with their enquiry.
- Is adaptable, able think on their feet to find solutions to deal with the presenting issues.
- Is emotionally resilient and able to deal with the impact of being exposed to customer's difficult circumstances, and remain professionally detached and focused even if the message you deliver involves saying no.
- Has an awareness of equalities issues and is committed to equal opportunities.
- Has an understanding of safeguarding and ability to recognise safeguarding concerns and take appropriate action to manage risk.
- Works proactively and is able to remain motivated, working on their own initiative.
- Has IT skills suited to working in a busy office.
- The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

What you'll get in return

As well as highly competitive pay you'll receive all the benefits of working within a local authority organisation, which ranges from flexible working hours to a fantastic pension which allows you the opportunity to pay in more for that greater return. We wish to support all our staffs development throughout, if that's progression planning or involvement within the on the job apprenticeship scheme we will work together to drive your career. For those with families we have child care benefits as well as discounts with local businesses which can be enjoyed by all.

When completing the application form, please thoroughly tailor your application to the 'Who is the Person' points with the use of examples from your experience. This is really important or you are likely not to be shortlisted.

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.