



APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Thank you for the interest you have shown in the vacancies within Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

Completed forms can be e-mailed to recruitment@xentrall.org.uk or posted to **Xentrall Recruitment Services, PO Box 891, Stockton on Tees, TS19 1JT**, marking the envelope in the top left hand corner with the post reference number.

In accordance with our recruitment procedures, your application will only be considered if it is received on or before the closing date as shown in the advertisement.

In the interests of economy, applications received via the post are not automatically acknowledged. If you require confirmation that your application has been received please enclose a stamped addressed envelope or telephone 01642 526992.

If you have not been contacted within 4 weeks of the closing date for receipt of applications, please assume that on this occasion your application has not been successful.

Social Worker – Permanence Team 2

Vacancy ID: 011214

Salary: £26,999.00 - £38,813.00 Annually

Closing Date: 16/08/2020

Benefits & Grade

Grade J - M

It is anticipated that an appointment will be made at Grade K - M to maintain a skills balance within the team.

Contract Details

Permanent

Contract Hours

37 hours per week

Disclosure

The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check

Job Description

As a high performing Local Authority we are looking to recruit a highly motivated, qualified Social Worker for the Permanence Team who will be committed to providing good outcomes for children and young people.

The Permanence Team works with children, their primary carers and families to support already agreed long term permanent plans where they are assessed as needing to be cared for outside of their birth parent's care. This primarily includes Looked After Children, those subject to Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders.

Achieving permanence is multifaceted. It requires children to experience not only physical permanence in the form of a family they are a part of and a home they live in, but also a sense of emotional permanence, of belonging and the opportunity to successfully build a strong identity. In many circumstances children will need support to make sense of being part of two families or to manage complex and sometimes difficult relationships and loyalties. This role is varied and will include work with birth families and reunification plans.

Applicants will need to evidence experience of assessment, care planning, conflict resolution and direct work to ensure that children's and young person's voices are heard. This will include skills and ability to confidently assess and manage situations where there may be child protection issues and complex areas of vulnerability.

In return we offer a supportive team environment, flexible working, commitment to continuous professional development and offer regular supervision and annual appraisal.


An online application form and further information is available from www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs.

Please ensure you refer to the Job Description and the essential and desirable criteria in the Person Specification when completing the Personal Statement on the application form, as this information is used to select candidates for interview.

If you would like an informal discussion about the post, please contact Carmel Murray, Team Manager, on 01642 527862.

The application form is available in alternative formats from Xentrall Recruitment Services, tel: 01642 526992 or email recruitment@xentrall.org.uk

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council ensures that all customers, both internal and external receive a consistently high quality level of service.

 Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL		JOB DESCRIPTION	
Directorate: Children's Services		Service Area: Permanence Team 2	
JOB TITLE: Social Worker			
GRADE: J-M			
REPORTING TO: Team Manager - Permanence Team 2			
1.	JOB SUMMARY: To provide a comprehensive Social Work service to looked after children who have a permanence plan and support to children in need and their families.		
2.	MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS		
1.	To support and safeguard looked after children and children in need and their families and implement the relevant policies and procedures, including the relevant assessments and reviews in conjunction with partners from other agencies.		
2.	To formulate appropriate plans to meet identified needs and to arrange for the implementation of such plans, in conjunction with other appropriate agencies.		
3.	To provide appropriate ongoing support to young people (and their families) as the key worker.		
4.	To offer advice assistance and guidance as appropriate to other team members and professionals.		
5.	To ensure that individual professional standards are maintained in line with agreed levels, including full compliance with policy and procedural guidelines and accepting primary responsibility for the level of quality of casework recording.		
6.	To chair multi-agency planning meetings.		
7.	To feed back to the Team Manager any problems in relation to the effective provision of services and/or policies.		
8.	To enhance the Department's image within the authority by promoting awareness of services and achievements and encourage greater participation.		
9.	To work as part of the duty system within the team as required.		

3. GENERAL

Job Evaluation - This job description has been compiled to inform and evaluate the grade J-M (career grade) using the NJC Job Evaluation scheme as adopted by Stockton Council.

Other Duties - The duties and responsibilities in this job description are not exhaustive. The post holder may be required to undertake other duties from time to time within the general scope of the post. Any such duties should not substantially change the general character of the post. Duties and responsibilities outside of the general scope of this grade of post will be with the consent of the post holder.

Workforce Culture and supporting behaviours and Code of Conduct – The post holder is required to carry out the duties in accordance with Workforce Culture and supporting behaviours, code of conduct, professional standards and promote equality and diversity in the workplace.

Shaping a Brighter Future – The post holder will embrace the Council’s “Shaping a Brighter Future” programme.

Personal Development – As defined by the Council’s Culture Statement, all employees will take responsibility for their own development

Customer Services – The post holder is required to ensure that all customers both internal and external, receive a consistently high quality level of service, commensurate to the standards required by Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

Policies and Procedures – The post holder is required to adhere to all Council Policies and Procedures.

Health and Safety – The post holder has a responsibility for their own health and safety and is required to carry out the duties in accordance with the Council Health and Safety policies and procedures.

Safeguarding – All employees need to be aware of the possible abuse of children and vulnerable adults and if you are concerned you need to follow the Stockton Council’s Safeguarding Policy. In addition employees working with children and vulnerable adults have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults during the course of their work.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title/Grade	Social Worker	J-M
Directorate / Service Area	Children's Services	Permanence Team 2
Post Ref:	POS004001	

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	MEANS OF ASSESSMENT
Qualifications	Professional Social Work qualification i.e. Degree in Social Work, CQSW, DipSw, CSS Registered with Social Work England		Application form
Experience and knowledge	Working knowledge of the Children Act 1989, 2004 and Children and Adoption Act 2002 Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 Knowledge of how Health and Social Care fits with other key agencies involved in work with children. Knowledge of how key agencies work together in supporting individuals and families General knowledge of the key issues associated with the placement of children Experience of attending court to care plan for children Experience of safeguarding young people and adhering to procedures	Experience of working with foster carers and residential settings Experience of undertaking assessments on prospective carers Demonstrable experience in working within Children and Families Services. Recent experience of working with Children Looked After	Application / Interview

<p>Skills/abilities</p>	<p>Ability to communicate with adolescents, children and adults</p> <p>Proven assessment skills</p> <p>Ability to work in partnership with both children and their families</p> <p>Ability to work alongside other key practitioners planning for the best interest of children</p> <p>Ability to work alone and part of a team</p> <p>Absolute commitment to the work of Health and Social Care</p> <p>Ability to organise, prioritise own work and achieve deadlines</p> <p>Work to a high standard of practice</p> <p>To learn and develop your own skills through experience and training</p> <p>Ability to problem solve</p>	<p>Understand risk assessments and risk management strategies</p> <p>Experience of undertaking life story work</p>	<p>Application/Interview</p>
<p>Other (e.g. attitudes, interests etc.)</p>	<p>Demonstrate the Council's Behaviours which underpin the Culture Statement.</p> <p>Have a positive attitude</p> <p>IT Skills</p> <p>Committed to achieving positive outcomes for children in our care</p>	<p>An understanding of play therapy and therapeutic support</p>	<p>Application / Interview</p>

Conditions of Service

General

Conditions of service will vary from service to service. However, there are some general points to cover.

Conditions of service generally are those contained in the appropriate National Joint Council Schemes but have been supplemented in a number of areas by locally agreed conditions. The relevant Handbooks are available for reference in all departments.

Office Hours

The normal working week is 37 hours. Council offices are generally open to the public from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (4.30p.m. on Friday). The majority of office staff are able to take part in the Councils flexible working hours scheme. Elsewhere, fixed hours or shift working may be operated according to the needs of a particular service.

Annual Leave

The basic annual leave entitlement is 26 days plus 8 public holidays. Employees with 5 years continuous service receive 31 days annual leave.

Sick Pay

Most employees are covered by the provisions of the nationally agreed sick pay schemes which allow periods of absence on half pay and full pay according to length of service.

Pension

You will automatically be entered into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) unless you choose to opt out. This is a contributory pension scheme and meets Government standards for automatic enrolment. If you do not opt out within three months of joining the LGPS, you will not be eligible to receive a refund of your contributions but will instead be given deferred benefits within the Scheme. If you decide to opt out of the Scheme your employment, earnings and age will be monitored in line with automatic enrolment guidelines.

Medical Examination

Before commencing your employment, you will need to complete a medical questionnaire and may be subject to a medical examination.

Probation

New entrants to Local Government will be required to complete a six month probationary period.

Equal Opportunities

The Council is working towards an environment where all employees, residents and service users receive equal treatment regardless of gender or gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, religion or belief, social origin, pregnancy and maternity.

Job Sharing

A voluntary Job Sharing Scheme is in operation. Applications to job share are welcome and there is no requirement for you to apply with a partner.

Payment of Salaries

Salaries are paid monthly on the last working day of the month. All payments are made by credit transfer direct to a nominated bank or building society.

Smoking Policy

The Council operates a No Smoking Policy.

Politically Restricted Posts

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 designate certain posts as politically restricted. If this is the case it will be detailed on the job description and means that you would be disqualified from being a member of a Local Authority, the House of Commons or of the European Parliament. Further information is available upon request.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working for the Council. This will depend on the nature of the post and the circumstances and background of your offence(s). To assist the Council in determining the suitability of your employment, certain posts are subject to a DBS check. If this is the case an appropriate statement will appear in the recruitment advertisement.