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| Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council | JOB DESCRIPTION |
| **Directorate:****HR, Legal & Communications** | Service Area: Legal Services |
| **JOB TITLE: Senior Lawyer (Children Social Care)** |
| **GRADE: N** |
| **REPORTING TO: Lead Solicitor (Children Social Care)** |
| **1.** | **JOB SUMMARY:** To provide high quality legal advice and support to the Council in an efficient and cost effective manner and in accordance with accordance with relevant legislation, policies and best professional practice.Under the line management of the Lead Solicitor (Children Social Care) and working closely with colleagues across the service and specifically within the team, to deliver Children Social Care legal advice, support and representation. |
| **2.** | **MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS** |
|  | 1 | To provide legal advice to Officers and Members on Children Social Care and related matters and conduct casework independently.  |
|  | 2 | To represent the Council at Court Hearings, Tribunals, Appeals and Inquiries. |
|  | 3 | To deputise at meetings and hearings as required. |
|  | 4 | To work with Directorates and external Partners to develop and provide a professional Legal Service that delivers the Council and Legal Service objectives and priorities. |
|  | 5 | To influence and make a positive contribution to corporate strategies, projects and policies and to assist in their effective implementation on a corporate basis. |
|  | 6 | To contribute to interpreting and analysing obligations required of the Council as a result of legislative changes and to ensure that current legislation is adhered to in the development and provision of services. |
|  | 7 | To participate in the annual Council and Directorate Business Planning process. |
|  | 8 | Keep up to date with any changes in the law by use of relevant software, internet and other resources to ensure that clients receive effective and efficient legal advice. |
|  | 9 | To make a positive contribution to the work of the Legal Services. |
|  | 10 | To undertake such personal training as may be deemed necessary to meet the duties and responsibilities of the post. |
| **3.** | **GENERAL** |
| **Job Evaluation -** This job description has been compiled to inform and evaluate the grade of N 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. |
| **Council Values, Behaviour Framework, Code of Conduct -** The post holder is required to carry out the duties in accordance with Council values, behaviour framework, 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.**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.  |
|  | Name: | Signature: | Date |
| Job Description written by: (Manager) | Beccy Brown | \\sbcth-res-fs01\res$\attewillf\Desktop\Beccy Brown Signature.jpg |  |
| Job Description agreed by: (Post holder) | ....................………… | ....................……… | .................. |

**Job Description dated**



**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| Job Title/Grade | Senior Lawyer (Children Social Care) Grade N |  |
| Directorate / Service Area | HR, Legal & Communications |  |
| Post Ref:  |  |

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|  | **ESSENTIAL** | **DESIRABLE** | **MEANS OF ASSESSMENT** |
| Qualifications  | * Solicitor or Barrister or FCILEX, fully qualified to practise in England and Wales
* Current practising certificate or eligible to successfully apply for a practising certificate
 | * Degree
 | Application form  |
| Experience | * Recent significant experience of legal practice
* Provision of legal advice relating to Children Social Care
* Advocacy, making presentations or providing legal advice at public meetings such as Council and Committee meetings or multi- disciplinary meetings.
* Experience that demonstrates a flexible approach, willingness and confidence in the ability to develop knowledge and understanding in new areas of law
 | * Working in a local government service
* Advocacy in contested cases
* Working within a Children Social Care Legal Team
 | Application form /Interview |
| Skills | * Ability to demonstrate political sensitivity and awareness.
* Ability to negotiate and communicate at a level consistent with the duties of the post.
* Ability to prioritise service issues and determine degree of personal involvement/delegation to others.
* Understanding of and ability to promote and encourage a corporate approach by employees.
* Knowledge of Local Government Services in general.
 |  | Application form /Interview |
| Specific behaviours relevant to the post | * Strong Commitment to the public service.
* A high degree of integrity.
* Calm and able to work sensitively with difficult situations.
* Uses political judgement and sensitivity.
* Strong interpersonal and networking style.
* Committed to acting corporately and collaboratively.
* High-level of drive and motivation to achieve.
* Outcome and achievement focussed.
* Committed to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.
* Committed to continuous improvement.
 |  | Application form /Interview |
| Other requirements |  | Current driving licence and use of car for business travel due to need to attend at court and meetings within and outside of the borough. | Application form/interview |

**Person Specification dated**