



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Job Description

Lawyer | Solicitor Children's Social Care

Job details

Grade:	Grade K - N
Directorate:	Corporate Services
Reporting to:	Lead Solicitor
Location:	Dunedin House, Stockton
Contract:	Full time (up to 37 hours)

Job Summary:

Join a respected and supportive legal team where your work will directly influence the lives of children and families while offering genuine opportunities to develop your career.

Under the guidance of the Lead Solicitor, you will provide high-quality legal advice, advocacy and representation across a broad range of Children's Social Care matters. Working closely with colleagues, clients and partner agencies, you will contribute to the delivery of an efficient, innovative and customer-focused legal service that supports some of the Council's most important responsibilities.

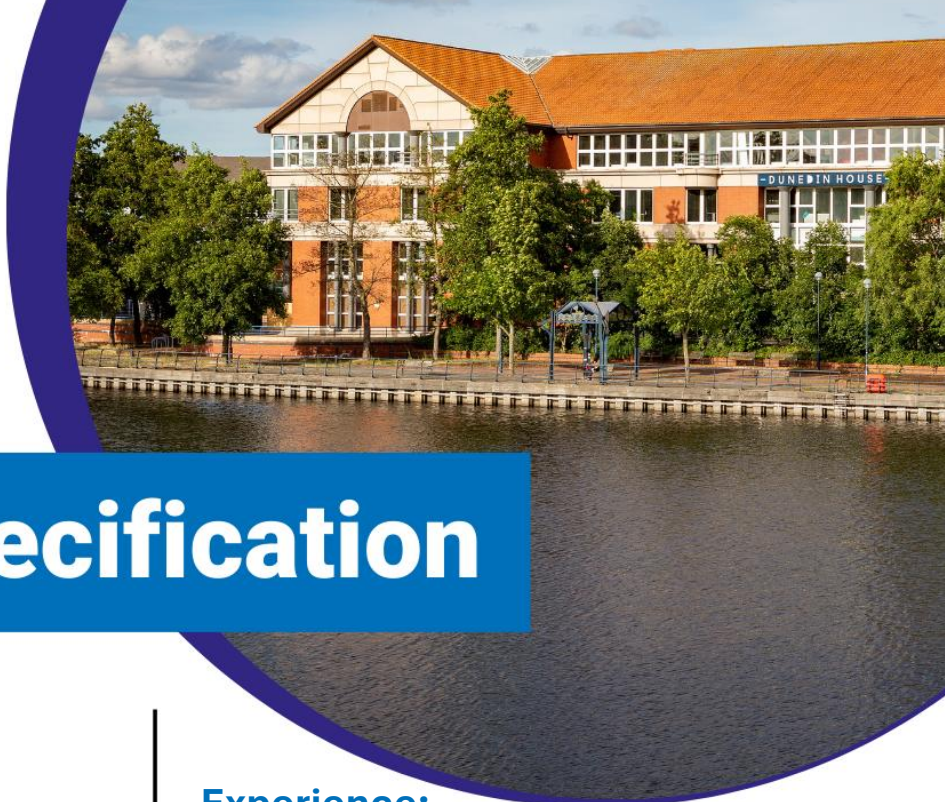
Whether you are building your expertise or bringing established experience, the career grade structure offers a clear pathway for growth, development and progression within a team committed to helping colleagues succeed.

Your day to day:

- To provide legal advice to Officers and Members on Children Social Care and related matters and conduct casework independently (subject to supervision by the Lead Solicitor).
- To represent the Council at Court Hearings, Tribunals, Appeals and Inquiries.
- To deputise at meetings and hearings as required.
- 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.
- To make a positive contribution to corporate strategies, projects and policies and to assist in their effective implementation on a corporate basis.
- To assist in 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.
- To participate in the annual Council and Directorate Business Planning process.
- 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.
- To undertake such personal training as may be deemed necessary to meet the duties and responsibilities of the post.
- Make a positive contribution to the wider work of Legal Services and the Council, promoting professional standards, innovation, collaboration and excellent customer service.



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Personal Specification

Essential criteria

Qualifications:

- Solicitor or Barrister or FCILEX, fully qualified to practise in England and Wales
- Part qualified and/or working towards qualification as a Solicitor or Barrister or FCILEX (Grade K)

Knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge of Children's Social Care law, associated legislation, regulatory frameworks and legal practice appropriate to the grade of the post.
- Knowledge of the legal, political and governance framework within which local authorities operate, including an understanding of the relationship between Officers and Elected Members.
- Knowledge of Local Government services and the statutory responsibilities, priorities and challenges facing local authorities.
- Knowledge of effective stakeholder engagement, negotiation and communication techniques, enabling the provision of clear, practical and proportionate legal advice.
- Knowledge of case management principles and workload prioritisation, including the ability to assess risk and determine appropriate levels of involvement, escalation and delegation.
- Knowledge of corporate governance principles and the importance of adopting a corporate approach to service delivery and decision-making.
- Knowledge of relevant legislative and policy developments affecting Children's Social Care and the wider local government legal environment.
- Knowledge of professional standards, ethics and best practice applicable to Solicitors, Barristers and FCILEX professionals.

Experience:

- Recent experience of legal practice including advocacy experience
- Provision of legal advice relating to Children's Social Care

Behaviours:

- 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.



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Personal Specification

Desirable criteria

- Degree
- Practising certificate
- Working in a local government service
- Advocacy in contested cases
- Making presentations in a public setting and at Council and Committee meetings.
- Working within a Children Social Care Legal Team
- 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.

General (for all Council colleagues)

- **Job Evaluation:** This job description supports grading under the NJC Job Evaluation scheme adopted by Stockton Council.
- **Flexibility:** Duties listed are not exhaustive; additional tasks may be required within the scope of the role.
- **Values & Conduct:** Act in line with Council Values, Behaviours, Code of Conduct, professional standards, and promote equality and diversity.
- **Corporate Parenting:** Share the Council's ambition for children in care and care-experienced young people to thrive and be protected from harm.
- **Personal Development:** Take responsibility for your own learning and growth, as outlined in the Council's Culture Statement.
- **Customer Service:** Deliver consistently high-quality service to all internal and external customers.
- **Policies & Procedures:** Comply with all Council policies and procedures.
- **Health & Safety:** Maintain personal safety and follow Council health and safety requirements.
- **Safeguarding:** Be alert to potential abuse of children and vulnerable adults and act in accordance with the Council's Safeguarding Policy.



North East
Better Health
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Ambassador Status

