

Invitation to apply for a part time secondment as an Inclusion Outreach SENCO to provide support to mainstream schools across Portsmouth as part of the Inclusion Outreach Service

Background

With the increase in numbers and complexity of children with SEND, the demand for Special School places, pressure on the High Needs Budget, and daily challenges faced by mainstream schools in supporting children with SEND has never been greater.

Addressing these needs and challenges in a financially sustainable way requires all settings, agencies and users to work together to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently to deliver the best possible outcomes.

Central to this vision is an increase in provision of high quality inclusive mainstream education supported by a robust outreach offer delivered by colleagues in education and health services.

Portsmouth City Council has a successful outreach service which brings together a range of support to mainstream schools into an integrated multi-agency offer.

This offer includes easily accessible and timely advice, support and resources from colleagues with knowledge and experience of supporting pupils with SEND in mainstream schools i.e. Inclusion Outreach SENCOs.

The Inclusion Outreach SENCO role

In order to build capacity and expertise in schools PCC wish to commission experienced practicing SENCOs to be seconded on a part time basis for up to 14 days per year.

Seconded staff will continue to be employed by their school but will be accountable to the Local Authority to deliver the outreach support. They will report to the Outreach Co-ordinator and contribute to the evaluation of impact.

Secondments are available from September 2023 to join our existing team. We have a core team of Outreach SENCOs and are looking to expand this, with up to two members of the core team. We appreciate that this is a significant time commitment and would also be very interested to hear from SENCOs who are interested in working with us on a particular project or area of work requiring less of a time commitment.

Service Level Agreements with seconding schools will be renewed, subject to funding, on an annual (academic year) basis.

There will be induction to support development needs and training where necessary.

Roles and responsibilities

- To increase the capacity and capability of mainstream schools to support pupils with SEND by ensuring they are aware of and have a good understanding of the services and support available in Portsmouth.
- Refer to the strategies and advice in the Ordinarily Available Provision guidance and Schools Therapy Resource Pack to promote inclusive practice.
- To facilitate collaborative working and shared learning amongst SENCOs, including through SENCO circles.
- To provide mentoring, advice and practical support to new and experienced SENCOs.
- To represent SENCOs at strategic meetings and with key partners.
- To provide information and data on type and level of support and advice provided to inform the evaluation of the service.
- To contribute to the evaluation of the impact of the Inclusion Outreach SENCO role and the outreach offer in general, providing advice regarding changes that would improve individual pupil and whole school outcomes.

Key personal requirements

In order to deliver this service effectively seconded staff will need to have:

- Professional credibility, demonstrating a level of expertise and experience as a SENCO and an understanding of the challenges, demands and opportunities of a mainstream educational environment relevant to the age phase they are supporting
- A thorough understanding of national and local SEND policy, procedures and resources with particular reference to the Code of Practice, the Children and Families Act 2014
- An understanding of the importance of addressing a child's social, emotional, and therapeutic needs as well as their academic needs
- Knowledge of the Local Offer including education, health and social care offer
- Good interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to advise others, providing when necessary an element of challenge as well as support
- Use of supervision / coaching models to support the development of practice with SENCOs
- The ability to write concise, jargon free records of contact, working to tight deadlines
- The ability to develop a rapport with professionals and parents within a short period of time
- The ability to manage their time effectively and to respond in a timely manner to requests for support

Successful candidates will be deployed and supervised by the Outreach Co-ordinator whilst undertaking their Inclusion Outreach SENCo role, including via regular Outreach SENCO team meetings.

Applications

SENCOs interested in taking on this exciting role should seek the agreement of their Head Teacher that a secondment would be possible and that their release will be agreed.

Applicants should then send a brief supporting statement outlining evidence of how they meet the above criteria to Lisa Caine, Inclusion Outreach Service Coordinator: l.caine@thsportsmouth.org by Friday 7th July.

Funding

The seconding school will receive reimbursement, paid in 2 instalments, September and April, the daily rate is currently under review.

Further information

For further information about the role please contact Lisa Caine, Inclusion Outreach Service Co-ordinator l.caine@thsportsmouth.org or Sarah Christopher, PEP and School Inclusion Manager Sarah.Christopher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk