

Peterborough City Council – Assistant Director, Children Social Care

Peterborough has been described as the UK's best kept secret. It is the fastest growing city in the country with ambitious plans for growth.

This is undoubtedly a challenging time for local government. However, Peterborough City Council continues to invest heavily in protecting children from harm and providing every child and young person with the best education.

Children's Services has made huge strides since its last Ofsted rating of adequate. It is now a thriving social care and educational support service which is beginning to have a real impact on the lives of children and young people.

This year Ofsted rated our school improvement team the top grade of effective (only two in the country); our youth offending service is one of the highest performing nationally with an excellent star rating; 85 per cent of our schools are now rated good or better; we have received an effective review of 16 to 19-year-old provision; and our child sexual exploitation (CSE) strategy is nationally recognised with successful prosecutions amounting to 100 years imprisonment.

In social care we have strengthened our front door, successfully introduced the single assessment, held the numbers of looked after children (370) and child protection (270) and introduced reflective supervision and a range of tools for intervention.

This is not to say there are not challenges. The biggest challenge is around growth and inward migration in an increasing diverse and thriving city population where over 150 languages are spoken. Meeting increased need within the resources available should not be underestimated.

The council has invested significantly in increased staffing since 2012. To aid social worker recruitment we have introduced an excellent induction package, an assessed year of employment for NQSWs, a



career progression scheme and a comprehensive training programme. We have refreshed our branding and recruitment campaign with a You Tube film and an Inside Out documentary filmed by the BBC. This is proving to be immensely successful.

We have introduced a number of practice tools to assist practitioners and our Quality Assurance framework is nationally recognised.

We have a range of early preventative services targeted through children and family centres and our community safety partnership. We are also looking at different models of delivery with our Communities directorate.

Our Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has been strengthened by a new chair and has a clear agenda.

We now want to recruit an Assistant Director within Children's Services.

That person will be a strong leader. They will be guaranteed the support they need from the very top of the organisation to provide the best service for children and families while at the same time truly realising their own potential in the profession they love.

Our Director of Children's Services is retiring but leaves a strong foundation to build upon. You will play a pivotal role in making the department 'outstanding'.

Gillian Beasley, the city council's Chief Executive, said: "We are well on our way to becoming an excellent service with national recognition for the work we are doing. Our joint working with Cambridgeshire Police has been particularly effective, never more so than in our ongoing work to combat CSE. This work has led to a number of successful high profile prosecutions to date and has seen us recognised nationally for how we are tackling this problem.

"The future is what now matters for us in Peterborough. Our goal is simple - to achieve the 'outstanding' rating for Children's Services." ■

Applicants wishing to discuss the post can contact, in confidence, Wendi Ogle-Welbourn (wendi.ogle-welbourn@peterborough.gov.uk) or Sue Westcott (sue.westcott@peterborough.gov.uk).

Closing date for applications is Monday 3 November 2014. Interviews will take place mid-November.

The preferred method of application is by emailing socialcarejobs@peterborough.gov.uk or visit www.peterboroughsocialworkcareers.org.uk for more information.



Assistant director, Children's Social Care – Peterborough City Council

Do you have the passion, energy and skills necessary to make our Children's Social Care service outstanding?

- We are not only looking for a good manager – we are looking for an outstanding leader.
- We are not just looking for someone who does things right – we are looking for someone who wants to be exceptional.
- Above all, we are looking for someone who will drive our Children's Services on to the next level.

We are on our way to making our Children's Services outstanding. To do this we are looking for a new assistant director who will have overall responsibility for Children's Social Care Services. The successful applicant will have very high degree of both responsibility and accountability.

Peterborough is vibrant, multicultural and the fastest growing city in the UK. Come here and you will find all the same challenges faced by Children's Services across our country. But, you will also find an unerring commitment from the very top of the organisation to do the very best for children and young people in our city. If that means being uncompromising, rigorous and relentlessly focused on our goals then that is exactly what we will be.

If you think you could provide the leadership to take our Children's Services to outstanding over the next few years then we want to hear from you.

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