This is an exciting time to be joining Dorset Council, we are investing and strengthening our service to meet the needs of all unaccompanied children in and beyond our care. A new, dedicated team of Social Workers and Personal Advisers is being created. This opportunity is now available for social workers who are interested and passionate about offering the best service to unaccompanied children. This is a full-time position of 37 hours per week.

Social workers will support children to receive a warm Dorset welcome, as they come into our care. Settling into homes where they can be offered the stability, care, and safety they need to adjust to living in the UK, develop their skills and transition into adulthood.

You will deliver the full range of statutory responsibilities for Children in Care, under the Children Act 1989, as well as working within the Leaving Care Act 2000 and alongside Personal Advisors, when a child reaches 16.

You will be working collaboratively with multi agency partners to identify and assess each child’s needs and reflect these and their individual strengths and aspirations within all aspects of care planning. There will be a particular focus on their health, education, and social needs, which will include supporting cultural links within communities and advocating for them to receive the best care and support.

You will be aiming to achieve permanence for our children ensuring triple planning is started early and clear to our children and those supporting them. In this role you will work closely with our legal service and the Home Office to progress our children’s asylum applications promptly.

You will need experience of working to meet competing demands and be able to adapt to changing situations and respond appropriately.

You will need to be an effective communicator, be creative in your work and use reflective thinking to inform your practice.

Experience in working with unaccompanied young people is desirable but not essential. You will need to be a qualified social worker with understanding of the statutory requirements, legislation, and responsibilities around Children in Care. You will need experience of court work.

You will need to be self-motivated and organised, to work on your own and as part of a team.

You will need to be able to use IT to support accurate case recording and information, as required by service standards.

This post has a significant travel requirement, both locally and nationally, and you are contractually required to have a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the council) available for use as required.

This post involves working with children or vulnerable adults and/or having access to significant information about them and will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please refer to our policy on the employment of ex-offenders for further information.