**Job Description**

**Senior Solicitor/Lawyer - Children’s Social Care**

**Role Profile** Unique Role Profile

**Service/Team** Legal & Democratic

**Reports to** Team Leader – Children’s Social Care

**Responsible for** N/A

**Number of posts** 3

**Post number** - - - - -

**Job Overview**

**My job improves the quality of life for the people of Bournemouth and Poole by…**

ensuring the councils have access to professional, efficient and high quality legal services that enables and supports the councils achieve their strategic objectives and priorities within the relevant legal and governance frameworks and fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

Support and assist the Head of Legal Services to deliver an efficient, effective and responsive service to clients in relation to the law in children’s social care, child protection and education.

**Key Responsibilities**

* Provide specialist input to the Service Director and the Head of Legal Services in the delivery and improvement of its services and business strategies
* Represent the Councils as and when required in all complex or high risk childcare and education related legal proceedings
* Deliver clear, consistent and accurate legal advice to officers, members and clients on all complex or high risk matters relating to children’s social care, child protection and education
* Procure external legal assistance when requested to do so
* Take necessary action under the relevant legislation and case law and ensure appropriate professional standards are maintained in line with accepted good practice
* Manage a busy caseload
* Deliver training and workshops for officers and members and updates on changes in the law as appropriate

**Specific Qualifications and Experience**

* Qualified solicitor or barrister or Chartered Legal Executive
* Extensive post qualification experience in in children’s social care and child protection proceedings, equivalent to PQE 5
* Up to date knowledge of children’s social care and child protection proceedings
* Demonstrable experience of persuasion and negotiation at a senior level

**Personal Qualities & Attributes**

* Ability to provide creative and innovative solutions to complex procedural and legal issues
* Tact and diplomacy
* Ability to work on own initiative and represent Legal Services at all levels within the authorities and externally
* Ability to give complex and specialist advice in highly sensitive and pressurised situations
* Ability to deliver pragmatic and cost effective advice and solutions to clients

**Job Requirements**

* Must be able to travel, using public or other forms of transport where they are viable, or by holding a valid UK driving licence with access to own or pool car