**Opportunity**

**Strategic Student Voice and Coproduction Coordinator**

**Available on a flexible part-time or secondment basis**

**Background**

Portsmouth City Council's Children, Families and Education directorate aims to work in coproduction wherever possible in order to achieve the best outcomes for those who make use of our services. This includes individual, operational and strategic co-production.

We have also held a very successful campaign to recruit young people to stand for election as our next Member of Youth Parliament (MYP). This has engaged a significant number of young people who are keen to make their voices heard. We want to expand the opportunities for them to do so, in a way that is meaningful and informs the decision-making processes of the Council.

We already have successful forums in the Council and across the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP); these include Dynamite, Children in Care Council (CiCC) and The Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS), the latter of which is led by Unloc.

We are now looking for someone with relevant knowledge, skills and experience to conduct a strategic review of current coproduction and engagement opportunities for young people and to develop a forward plan. This person will also induct the interim elected MYP to engage with their peers across the city, elected members, local authority officers and senior staff in schools and lead the organisation of the elections for the next MYP in Spring 2022.

**The role**

In order to increase opportunities for young people's views to influence decisions in Portsmouth, we wish to commission an experienced practitioner who is able to work strategically to map and analyse the existing offer and to develop recommendations arising from this review.

The strategic coordinator will work with the elected MYP, the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, to involve the MYP and other young people in decision-making forums.

Seconded staff will continue to be employed by their current employer but will be accountable to the Local Authority for this project. They will report to the PEP and School Inclusion manager.

**Roles and responsibilities**

Working in coproduction wherever possible:

* Provide support, induction and coaching for the interim MYP and their deputy.
* Analyse the existing coproduction offer and engagement opportunities for young people in Portsmouth, identifying good practice and areas to develop
* Develop positive relationships with existing groups
* Make recommendations for how to widen opportunities in a meaningful and sustainable way
* Work with elected members and offers to identify opportunities for the MYP and their deputy to contribute to decision making
* Provide opportunities for young people, representing the diversity of our city, to make their voices heard
* Link with the British Youth Council to support the young people of Portsmouth to get involved with national campaigns such as Make Your Mark
* Develop medium and long-term plans to engage a wider range of young people, reflective of the population, in coproduction and decision-making across all directorates

In order to cover this work, we aim to agree a contract for up to 40 days to be worked from August 2022 to March 2023. The day rate would be negotiated with the successful applicant.

The post holder will be expected to work flexibly including some work during evenings and school holidays. There may be occasional weekend working.

**Key personal requirements**

In order to deliver this project you should have the following skills and experience:

* Passion for developing participation and coproduction with young people
* A commitment to inclusion and valuing diversity
* Ability to support and empower young people to participate in decision making forums
* Experience of using creative approaches to engaging vulnerable children and young people
* Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skills with a range of people, including young people, elected members, professionals, internal and external stakeholders
* Ability to analyse information and make recommendations based on findings

**Applications**

Applicants should write a short supporting statement, highlighting why you are interested and suitable for this role. Please send your statement by 29th July 2022 to [Sarah.Christopher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Christopher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

For further information about the role please contact Sarah Christopher, PEP and School Inclusion Manger, Portsmouth City Council on 07825 420519 or [Sarah.Christopher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Christopher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

If you are applying as a secondment, please seek the agreement of your head teacher / manager that a secondment would be possible, and that release will be agreed.