At Birmingham City Council, we are always looking for people of the highest calibre whose knowledge, skills and experience will help us provide the best possible service. We are working to support a hugely diverse city with a wide range of services in order to make a positive difference every day to people’s lives.

Working within one of the largest legal teams in local government, you will be involved in complex, challenging work at this exciting time in Birmingham City Council’s future. Join us, and you'll be in a great place for both professional and personal development in our large, vibrant and evolving city.

As a Council we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care and we expect our staff to share this commitment. We are looking to recruit Legal professionals for our Childcare Legal Team who will deliver a high quality legal service whilst keeping the wellbeing and safety of the most vulnerable children and young people in the City at the heart of their approach. With responsibility for a varied caseload, they will be expected to actively promote a joined-up approach to partnership working with the Children’s Services Department, as well as with other teams, agencies and organisations.

It will be their job to act as an advocate in Court, attend and contribute to relevant meetings, conferences and panels and support the Team Manager by undertaking any other duties commensurate with the role or with the needs of the service.

For informal enquiries in relation to this role, please contact Sukhwinder Singh on 0121 303 7812 or Samantha Smith on 0121 464 7540.

Ref: EC0822017

Closing date: Wednesday 12th April 2017

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be undertaken.

“Right to work in the UK documentation will be fully checked for all applicants. All non UK and non EU applicants are required to apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship from Birmingham City Council and must be approved by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) before any employment offer can be confirmed.”
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: SOLICITOR/BARRISTER/LAWYER

GRADE: 5

DIVISION: LEGAL SERVICES

NO OF POSTS: 8

SECTION: CHILDRENS LEGAL TEAM

POST REQUIRES POLICE / CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU CLEARANCE: YES/NO

1.0 JOB PURPOSE

1.1 To provide a high quality legal service in order to support Children’s Services in its mission to ensure that children are protected from significant harm.

1.2 To provide representation for the City Council at the Law Courts, Tribunals and meetings as required by the nature of your work.

1.3 To provide support to the City Solicitor / Head of Law / Senior Solicitor/Barrister/Lawyer with regard to the conduct of legal casework.

1.4 To carry out such other duties in the Department as demand requires.

2.0 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 To carry out the duties of a Solicitor/Barrister/Lawyer to the Departments of the City Council in connection with such matters as may be allocated.

2.2 To conduct casework as may be required by the nature of your work.

2.3 To act as an advocate in Courts, Inquiries, Arbitrations and Tribunals for which the Council is a party as may be required by the nature of your work.

2.4 To prepare reports for, and attend Committees, Sub-Committees and Executive Committee as required by the City Solicitor or Head of Law.

2.5 To be committed to personal development and Investors in People principles.
2.6 To give assistance to the City Solicitor/Head of Law/Senior Solicitor/Barrister/Lawyer/Team Leader with regard to the conduct of legal casework.

2.7 To undertake such other tasks as may be allocated from time to time by the City Solicitor or Head of Law.

2.8 To actively contribute to developing the departmental, divisional and team Business Plans.

2.9 To assist with the development of the department’s Quality Management System, and to ensure that associated policies and procedures are adhered to.

2.10 To comply with the City Council’s equal opportunities policy and other valuing diversity policies.

2.11 To participate in special projects or corporate working groups assigned to him/her or to represent the Legal Services Management Team on special projects or at meetings of relevant groups from time to time.

2.12 To undertake any other duties and responsibilities allocated to the postholder by the designated managers as are commensurate with the duties of this post.

OBSERVANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL’S EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY WILL BE REQUIRED

3.0 SUPERVISION RECEIVED

3.1 SUPERVISING OFFICER JOB TITLE: SENIOR SOLICITOR/BARRISTER/LAWYER

3.2 LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

1. Left to work within established guidelines subject to scrutiny by supervisor.

2. Plan own work to ensure the meeting of defined objectives.

4.0 SUPERVISION GIVEN (excludes those who are INDIRECTLY supervised i.e. through others)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST TITLE</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>NO OF POSTS</th>
<th>LEVEL OF SUPERVISION*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

5.1 Working as an effective member of a team of lawyers to deliver the best possible outcome for the Council.

5.2 This is a politically restricted post for the purposes of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

5.3 Availability at evenings and weekends will be required to deal with urgent cases.

6.0 LOCATION

The Headquarters for the Legal Services Office are based at 10 Woodcock Street, Aston, Birmingham B7 4BL. The postholder will also travel to and or be based at other office(s) of Legal Services. The working week is based on 36.5 hours and a job-share system is in operation together with a flexitime scheme.
## Person Specification

**Post:** SOLICITOR/BARRISTER/LAWYER  
**Grade:** 5  
**Division:** LEGAL SERVICES  
**Section:** Children’s Team  
**Directorate:** ECONOMY

**Method of Assessment (M.O.A.)** A.F. = Application Form; I = Interview; T. = Test or Exercise; C. = Certificate; P. = Presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>ESSENTIAL</th>
<th>M.O.A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education/Qualifications</strong></td>
<td>Solicitor/Barrister with current Practising Certificate or Lawyer with demonstrably equivalent skills, abilities and knowledge</td>
<td>AF &amp; C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB: Full regard must be paid to overseas qualifications.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experience</strong> (Relevant work and other experience)</td>
<td>Must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the relevant area of law</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must be able to demonstrate competent drafting and negotiating experience</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must be able to demonstrate an ability to utilise transferable skills if experienced in a different area of law</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skills &amp; Ability</strong> e.g. written communication skills, dealing with the public etc.</td>
<td>Must be able to demonstrate an ability to communicate concisely and effectively both in writing and orally</td>
<td>I &amp; T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An ability to fulfil all spoken aspects of the role with confidence using the English Language as required by <strong>Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016</strong></td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must be able to demonstrate an ability to work to tight timescales in a pressurised environment</td>
<td>I &amp; T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must demonstrate an ability to handle sensitive situations with tact and diplomacy</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must demonstrate an ability to work as a member of a team and on your own initiative</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Must demonstrate an ability to work in partnership with other Council Departments and external organisations</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of continuous professional development as required by the Law Society and Bar Council</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practice Management</strong></td>
<td>Ability to understand and implement good practice management standards</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Must demonstrate an understanding of diversity and its positive impact on the Department and wider organisation</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May be required to work outside of normal working hours as required or specified in the job description</td>
<td>AF &amp; I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All staff are expected to **understand** and be **committed** to Equal Opportunities in employment and service delivery.