



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Senior Childcare Lawyer

Job details

Job title: **Senior Lawyer – Childcare**

Grade: **NNBAND09 (£50,512 - £53,701)**

Reports to: **Chief Lawyer Childcare**

Directorate and Service area: **Customer and Governance, Legal**

Services Purpose of the job

To deliver good quality legal advice to client departments, ensuring they are aware of, and comply with, statutory requirements and the Council's activities are conducted in a lawful and transparent manner.

General responsibilities applicable to all jobs

1. Demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behavioural, physical, social and welfare needs.
2. Comply with the Council's policies and procedures including (but not limited to) safeguarding, financial regulations, promotion of equalities, customer care, agreed audit actions and health and safety (ensuring that reasonable care is taken at all times for the health, safety and welfare of yourself and other persons).
3. Carry out any other duties which fall within the broad spirit, scope and purpose of this job description and which are commensurate with the grade of the post.

This job description reflects the major tasks to be carried out by the post holder and identifies a level of responsibility at which they will be required to work. In the interests of effective working, the major tasks may be reviewed from time to time to reflect changing needs and circumstances. Such reviews and any consequential changes will be carried out in consultation with the post holder.

Principal responsibilities of this job

4. Provide legal advice and services as requested to the Council, its Members and its client departments to ensure that the implications of local government law are complied with and understood, including adequately representing the Council in courts and tribunals.
5. Supervision of lawyers and legal assistants.
6. Draft and advise on reports for the Cabinet, Cabinet Members, Council Committees and Sub-Committees and to attend such committees and other meetings as may be required, which may include meeting out of normal office hours, ensuring that all procedural and standing order requirements are complied with.
7. Support and contribute to the effective delivery of the council's objectives and priorities.
8. Monitor and share changes in the law and practice as appropriate and implement changes to policy and processes when necessary, informing client departments of changes in the law and practice when they occur;
9. Respond to queries and calls promptly and professionally, using effective

communication and engagement;

10. Ensure complete and proper digital and physical records are maintained as appropriate relating to all work undertaken including time records using the service's case management and time recording system;
11. Work collaboratively with other teams and support the training and development of colleagues and clients.

Person Specification – Senior Contracts and Procurement Lawyer

Attributes	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Education, Qualifications and Training	<p>Relevant degree Qualified CILEX, Solicitor or Barrister, licensed to practice.</p>	<p>Postgraduate level management qualification.</p>
Experience and Knowledge	<p>Effectively and appropriately provide and communicate complex legal advice to Members, Officers and other stakeholders generally and at committee meetings.</p> <p>Experience in the following areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide general and specialist childcare advice on behalf of the Council to clients, colleagues and elected members and senior officers. • Manage a caseload in relation to the full range child protection cases, including attendance at court and tribunals undertaking advocacy where required. • Advising on policy, strategy and procedures relating to childcare issues. <p>Good negotiating and influencing skills.</p> <p>Effective management of competing demands and tight deadlines.</p> <p>Flexible, positive can-do approach to managing change and work demands.</p> <p>Management of a team of Lawyers and administration staff or relevant transferable experience.</p>	<p>Advising Members in a political environment.</p> <p>Budget management.</p> <p>Work constructively with Members and demonstrate political sensitivity.</p>

Ability and Skills	<p>Leadership, delegation and team building skills.</p> <p>Problem solving.</p> <p>Political and cultural awareness.</p> <p>Strong communication and presentation.</p>	<p>Analytical thinking and evaluation.</p> <p>Strategic thinking - balancing expectations and requirements now and in the future.</p>
Equal Opportunities	<p>Ability to demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behaviour, physical, social and welfare needs.</p>	
Additional Factors	<p>Promote the Council's values of being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer-focused • Respectful • Efficient • Supportive • Trustworthy 	