Context statement

Job title: Dorset Expertise Delivery Officer (Experts at Hand)
Directorate/Service/Team: Children's Services / Education & Learning / Dorset SEND Reform Programme

Organisation structure

Reporting to: Principal Lead – SEND Reform Programme

Responsibility for: co-ordinating the operational delivery of Dorset's Expertise Offer within designated localities. Whilst the role does not include direct line management responsibility, the postholder will work within a matrix management environment, coordinating activity across a multidisciplinary workforce, including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Teachers and other practitioners engaged in the delivery of the offer.

The postholder will work closely with locality partners, education settings, health services and wider stakeholders to ensure resources are targeted effectively and that support is delivered in line with local priorities and programme objectives.

Context of work

The Dorset Expertise Delivery Officer is a key operational role supporting the implementation and delivery of Dorset's Expertise Offer, a central component of Dorset's SEND Reform Programme.

The Dorset Expertise Offer provides targeted, time-limited support designed to strengthen the capacity and confidence of mainstream educational settings, including early years providers, schools and colleges, to meet a wider range of needs. Through early intervention, specialist advice and partnership working, the offer supports settings to improve inclusive practice and achieve better outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), reducing the need for escalation to specialist provision and statutory processes.

Delivered through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach, the offer provides targeted professional guidance, consultation, coaching and specialist support. It is designed to support:

- Whole-setting improvement where additional expertise is required to strengthen provision and inclusive practice.
- Cohorts of children and young people with identified areas of need.
- Groups of practitioners requiring targeted development and support.

The role operates across education, health and children's services, providing coordination and oversight of locality-based delivery arrangements to ensure children, young people and families receive timely, joined-up support within their local communities. A key focus of the role is enabling education settings to access specialist expertise at the earliest opportunity, without the need for a formal diagnosis, helping to embed a proactive and needs-led approach to inclusion.



Dorset's Expertise Offer will be jointly commissioned by Dorset Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), underpinned by shared outcomes, performance expectations and governance arrangements. Delivery and impact will be monitored through regular reporting to the Dorset Every Child Achieving and Thriving Partnership Group at an operational level and the Alliance for Inclusion and Excellence in Education at a strategic level.

Working within a complex multi-agency environment, the postholder will develop and maintain effective relationships across education, health, social care and wider partner organisations. They will facilitate access to specialist advice, intervention and support, ensuring expertise is deployed effectively and equitably to maximise impact for children and young people with SEND.

The postholder will contribute to service development, quality assurance, performance monitoring and continuous improvement activity. Through this work, they will support Dorset Council's ambition to create a more inclusive, sustainable and responsive SEND system, strengthening mainstream provision, improving outcomes for children and young people, and reducing reliance on specialist and statutory services through earlier intervention and effective partnership working.

Travel requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the Council) to be available on most working days in order to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period.

Other information

The postholder will be required to work collaboratively across multiple localities, partner organisations and professional disciplines and may be required to attend meetings outside normal office locations.

The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

This post will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check due to regular contact with children, young people and families and the requirement to work within safeguarding frameworks.

Context statement prepared by:			
Manager	Corporate Director Education & Learning	Date	06/08/2026

