

## **Job Title: Regional SEND Lead Practitioner / Assistant Principal Educational Psychologist (APEP)**

**Grade:** 15 Full time Salary Dorset Grade 15 : £59,475 - £66, 191

**Job Family:** Regional Innovation and Improvement Alliance Job Family

**Reports to:** SW SEND Coordinator and Principal Educational Psychologist

**Location:** South West Region (with significant travel required)

**Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check Required**

### **Purpose and Impact**

The Regional SEND Lead Practitioner / APEP will work alongside the current Regional Co-ordinator to boost capacity and deliver universal and/or targeted support. They will work closely with local areas, regional stakeholders, and national partners to embed reforms and ensure high-quality, inclusive services for children and young people with SEND. They will provide strategic leadership and coordination across the South West region.

This role is central to driving transformation, improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and fostering a culture of collaboration and co-production across local authorities, health, education, and social care partners.

The post holder will lead areas of development and delivery of the Regional Plan, ensuring alignment with national policy, regional priorities, and local transformation programmes. They will also liaise with the Department for Education (DfE), regional stakeholders, and national networks.

This is a regional role with strategic responsibilities across multiple localities, requiring high-level coordination, cross-boundary collaboration, and the ability to influence practice at scale. The postholder will lead on the implementation of policy and practice across diverse settings, engage with a wide range of stakeholders including national bodies, and provide expert guidance to local teams. The role demands advanced leadership, systems thinking, and the ability to manage complex, multi-agency initiatives.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Lead aspects of strategic planning, delivery, and evaluation of the Regional SEND Programme, ensuring compliance and alignment with national reforms.



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- Oversee multi-agency SEND programmes and associated budgets across the South West region.
- Establish and maintain the networks, including local authorities, health and social care partners, education providers, and parent/carer forums.
- Promote and embed a culture of co-production with children, young people, and families.
- Provide expert advice on change management and transformation to senior leaders and regional stakeholders.
- Build and sustain strong relationships across the education sector, including early years, schools, FE colleges, and independent providers.
- Collaborate to support DFE progress monitoring and reporting.
- Lead and contribute to regional and national working groups, ensuring the South West's voice is represented in policy development.
- Collaborate to support managing regional grants in accordance with council policies, ensuring effective allocation and monitoring of spend.
- Ensure data quality and integrity across all programme areas.
- Deputise for the SW SEND Coordinator and PEP as required.

## **Supervision and Management**

- This role will be line managed by the SW SEND regional Coordinator and PEP.
- Matrix management of staff across the system involved in regional SEND projects and initiatives.
- This role will line manage a project coordinator.

## **Key Skills, Attributes and experience**

- Proven leadership in SEND transformation and multi-agency working.
- Strong understanding of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated statutory guidance.
- Excellent communication and influencing skills, particularly in complex or contentious contexts.
- Ability to manage competing priorities and deliver under pressure.
- Strategic thinker with a track record of delivering change and improving outcomes.
- Skilled in performance management, budget oversight, and programme evaluation.
- Committed to inclusive practice and co-production with families and young people.

## **Qualifications/ training/registrations**

Advanced theoretical (equivalent to Masters Level and/or specialist training) knowledge in SEND

Professional qualification in a related area (For example, educational psychology, speech therapy, SENDCO)

Evidence of continuing professional development that enhances theoretical and practical knowledge

Leadership management qualification or equivalent experience

Demonstratable experience in improving the quality of services for children and young people with SEND

Experience of effective strategic coproduction and participation with both parents/carers and young people

Substantial, post-relevant experience in a local authority, NHS or other public sector setting

Experience of managing relevant multidisciplinary team(s)

Relevant experience in the successful management of change with demonstrable outcomes

Relevant experience of working effectively across organisational professional boundaries in complex organisations

Experience of designing and managing complex projects

Systems leadership experience - knowledge and experience of effective partnership and multi-agency working and influencing decision making, with a range of stakeholders from different services and professions

Experience of building and sustaining good working relationships with people at all levels with an aptitude for networking with internal and external key stakeholders, including senior managers and Members from councils and partners

## **Skills, abilities & knowledge**

Experience and a sound knowledge of the legislative framework for SEND and Inclusion, including the Equality Act 2010, the SEND Code of Practice 2015, and the Children & Families

Act 2014 as well as guidance relating to the SEND function, with an understanding of current local government, potential changes and their likely future impact

Detailed knowledge of national and regional initiatives and developments particularly in relation to the statutory duties on local authorities for SEN and disabilities

Detailed knowledge of the legislative framework relating to SEND, including the SEN Code of Practice and an understanding of the duties in respect of the Code for schools, local authorities, and their partners (including health, social care and representatives of parents and young people).

Highly developed knowledge in programme or change management, underpinned by theory and experience

## **Other Requirements**

- Significant travel across the region is required. A suitable vehicle must be available on most working days.
- Flexibility to respond to changing priorities and demands.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development and the promotion of best practice.

## **Our Behaviours**

The post holder is expected to demonstrate core behaviours in all aspects of their work. These include acting with integrity, working together, focusing on customers, and delivering results.

Commitment to core behaviours: Responsibility, Respect, Recognition, and Collaboration.