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| **specialist advisor for communication & interaction**  **SALARY GRADE: SOULBURY 1 - 4** | Halton Borough Council  resourcing@halton.gov.uk |
| Working at Halton | |
| All our colleagues at Halton have made a positive commitment to delivering great outcomes for our communities. Whoever joins us will share that passion for outstanding service, and strongly align with the values which define our workplace culture:   * Working Together – building fantastic relationships with colleagues and customers * Continuous Improvement – keeping great service delivery at the heart of everything we do * Personal Growth – learning, growing and developing ourselves * Accountability – doing what we say we are going to do * Inspiring Leadership – positive roles models and leading by example   *To read more about our values, click* [*HERE*](https://haltoncouncilcareers.co.uk/values/)  **We are immensely proud that when asked what’s great about working for Halton, the most popular response from our workforce has been ‘*our colleagues’*.**  Aside from working with a great team, our employees have access to a fantastic range of benefits, including:   * A generous annual holiday allowance starting at 34 days per year (including bank holidays), increasing with long service * Membership of our defined benefit, salary-linked pension scheme with generous Employer Contributions * 3 x Salary Life Cover via Local Government Pension Scheme * Investment in your personal development * Free Car Parking at HBC sites * Flexible / hybrid working arrangements available * Car leasing schemes * Essential Monthly Car User Allowance   *For further information about all the benefits we offer, please click* [*HERE*](https://haltoncouncilcareers.co.uk/benefits/)*.* | |
| About the Job | |
| As a Specialist Advisor for Communication and Interaction, you will support education settings to identify their needs and provide advice and strategies on SEND need management and reasonable adjustments for inclusion, as well as delivering training. You will facilitate the inclusion of children with a range of communication difficulties (including autism/social communication) across 0-16 years, supporting them to ensure they achieve their full potential. You will also work in partnership with parents, carers, colleagues in the local authority, health services and schools/settings to offer support and advice on inclusion.  More specific responsibilities include:   * Leading on communication and interaction consortiums, providing advice and strategies on how to support children in settings in order to promote inclusion. * Providing support, advice and guidance to teachers/practitioners across Halton, including resource base provision. * Supporting settings with transition for children with communication and interaction difficulties, including autism/social communication difficulties. Liaise and work with nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools to ensure transition is robust. * Working collaboratively with parents/carers, colleagues in health, early years settings and schools to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to planning for children * Dedication to continued professional development, keeping up to date with national, regional and local educational developments, research and good practice related to the needs of children. * Undertaking a key role in the inclusion of children with a range of communication difficulties, including autism and social communication difficulties by advising on quality first teaching; advising on reasonable adjustments settings should be making; promoting principles of good practice approaches for children with social communication difficulties which benefit all children; raising awareness of environmental aspects in line with Equality Act 2010 * Ensuring schools undertake regular environmental audits so their settings are communication friendly. * Understanding and complying with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health and safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person. * Promoting the STAS training and follow principles of the graduated approach to SEND in settings. Support in delivering some training where appropriate. * Signposting schools and settings to a range of resources, advice and support available in Halton. * Providing appropriate challenge to settings when necessary to ensure they are promoting inclusion. * Undertake any other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time, which are commensurate with the grade of the job. | |
| About You | |
| You will hold a degree (or equivalent) linked to SEND and/or communication and interaction, as well as relevant additional qualifications in SEND i.e. post-graduate qualifications and CPD  In addition you will have:   * Significant experience of working in or supporting in an early years setting, primary and/or secondary schools with pupils who have communication difficulties. * Experience of delivering interventions in an early years setting or school setting and being able to confidently use a range of evidence- based communication and interaction approaches/strategies. * Experience of liaising with a range of professionals and understanding of the importance of multi-agency working * Experience of applying support and appropriate challenge to mainstream settings in relation to SEND issues. * An understanding of evidence- based communication and interaction strategies, approaches and research or a willingness to learn. * Knowledge of appropriate legislation including the SEND Code of Practice and Children & Families Act 2014. Ability to apply national initiatives to the local context. An understanding of current national issues relating to inclusion & the integrated services agenda. * Knowledge of National Curriculum and additional curriculum appropriate for pupils with SEND. * Knowledge of the impact communication and interaction difficulties can have on a pupil, including their confidence and wellbeing. * Ability to work at different levels to build the capacity of schools & settings to work with a more diverse range of children and young people. * Ability to develop effective relationships & inspire confidence. * Ability to communicate well both orally and in writing & to complete consortium notes independently * Enthusiastic and passionate about SEND with a desire to make improvements across Halton * Ability to work with the wider team, as well as being confident to work independently. * Effective time management skills * Fluent spoken and written English   As this role involves regular travel across the borough and sometimes further afield, a driving license and access to a vehicle are essential requirements. Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Equality Act.  The Council and its schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults and expect all staff, workers and volunteers to share its commitment. | |
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