



We are looking for a Legal Officer (12 months fixed term), could this be you?

Starting salary (Grade 4 Salary band £36,298 - £47,244)

(37 hours per week with flexible working)

Closing date for applications: 24th June 2022

Interviews week commencing 6th of July

Please note secondments would be welcomed.

Passionate about children's human rights? Want to use your legal expertise within investigation and litigation to make a real difference to the lives of children and young people? Then we want you to join us to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people in Scotland.

The Legal Officer will work in the Commissioner's Advice and Investigations Team, reporting to the Head of Advice and Investigations. You will be responsible for the provision of internal legal advice and the lawful and effective use of the Commissioner's investigative powers, as well as supporting the delivery of the office's advice function. In addition, you will be directly responsible for the analysis and management of a body of legal casework on behalf of the Commissioner.

This role is a unique and pivotal within our office. As a key member of staff, we need you to provide legal advice and support in relation to the exercise of the Commissioner's investigative powers.

The role will allow you to lead on the office's strategic litigation function. We are looking for individuals with the gravitas and professionalism to build the function and make recommendations for future development.

You will have primary responsibility assessment of cases for intervention and other involvement by the Commissioner, drafting submission and legally representing the Commissioner, instructing Counsel, and managing cases.

You will provide legal advice on issues relating to children and young people's rights and will enable effective response to rights issues raised via our advice function.

As a team, we work to our shared values of bravery, independence, leadership, participation and respect so that we can be the fierce champions of rights that children and young people need us to be.

Who we are

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Scotland is an independent statutory body. The office has a current budget of £1.3 million and a multidisciplinary team of 15 staff based in an office in central Edinburgh but working all across Scotland. We promote and safeguard the human rights of everyone in Scotland up to 18, or up to 21 if the young person has care experience.

Scotland's children and young people have told us that they need fierce champions for their human rights: people who share our values of bravery, independence, leadership, participation, and respect.

You'd be joining the Commissioner, Bruce Adamson, and his hard-working and committed team striving to influence and drive progressive law, policy and practice within children's human rights. We do this by:

- Raising awareness and understanding of children's human rights
- Reviewing law, policy and practice relating to children's human rights
- Promoting best practice by service providers
- Promoting, commissioning, undertaking, and publishing research to promote better implementation of children's human rights

In doing this, the Commissioner must have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and act in a way that encourages equal opportunities. We must also encourage the involvement of children and young people in the work of the office and consult relevant organisations working with, and for children and young people, placing a particular emphasis on those who are less likely to be included or listened to, and those whose rights are most at risk.

Why join us?

You'll be valued as an essential part of a busy team, working every day to make an impact in children and young people's lives in Scotland.

You'll also get the chance to work directly with children and young people.

We offer flexible working hours and excellent holidays and benefits within the public sector in Scotland.

Secondments would be welcomed.

For more information, please read our accompanying candidate booklet.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter (of no more than 2000 words) to recruitment@cypcs.org.uk

Guaranteed Interview

Disability

Disabled candidates who satisfy the essential basic criteria for the post will be invited for interview. Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Care Experienced

Candidates who are Care Experienced who satisfy the essential basic criteria for the post will be invited for interview. We consider you to be care-experienced if you have ever been looked after in local authority care (for instance if you have been in foster care/kinship care/residential care or have been looked after at home on a compulsory order).