

Lawyer Grade 10

Our Vision

An innovative, ambitious and sustainable county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.

Our Outcomes

We want everyone in Staffordshire to:

- Have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth
- Live in thriving and sustainable communities
- Be healthier and more independent for longer

Our Values

Our People Strategy sets out what we all need to do to make Staffordshire County Council a great place to work, where people are supported to develop, flourish and contribute to our ambitious plans. Our values are at the heart of the Strategy to ensure that the focus is on what is important to the organisation and the people it serves:

- Ambitious – We are ambitious for our communities and the people of Staffordshire
- Courageous – We recognise our challenges and are prepared to make courageous decisions
- Empowering – We empower and support our people by giving them the opportunity to do their jobs well.

About the Service

Staffordshire Legal Services is an accredited professional advisory service for the whole Council, based within the Corporate Services Directorate. It provides quality services, promoting Staffordshire County Council's pursuit of excellence.

Staffordshire Legal Services also provides services to a range of external clients which are effective, customer friendly and provide value for money.

We endeavour to deliver by taking into account our customer commitments, our Council values and our individual objectives.

About the Role

A Lawyer in LSU will have an understanding of the law relating to the post and they will play a vital role in supporting the LSU in its delivery of high quality legal services.

No previous local government experience is necessary but the role holder will be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the work done by this Council and operate comfortably alongside a professional client.

They will be responsible for progressing legal cases, with straightforward to moderate complexity commensurate with their experience and skill set. They will use their own initiative and will work well under pressure, meeting competing demands, and consistently maintaining a high standard of work.

The Lawyer will represent the relevant client department, at all case related meetings and have of conduct advocacy at court hearings/small claims case management hearings/ dispute resolution hearings/tribunals/mediation/public inquiries/panels/committees, as relevant to their role.

They will have the verbal and written communication skills that will be fundamental to the provision of a high quality service to the professional client and any external client. They will impress with their meticulous attention for detail.

Computer literacy and an ability to use IT and case management systems will be crucial in supporting the Lawyer in their work and in service delivery.

They will be able to handle sensitive data in accordance with policy and

guidance.

The post holder will appraise the work and professional development of more junior staff members.

Reporting Relationships

Responsible to: Team Senior Lawyer G12 or Senior Lawyer G11

Responsible for: Paralegals/Legal Officers/Officer - G5 to G8

Key Accountabilities:

1. Completing all aspects of straightforward to moderately complex legal casework, as defined by the Principal Lawyer, LSM or DSLM, including drafting and negotiating complex documents relevant to skills, qualification, and experience. To work under limited levels of supervision in order to contribute to the service delivery outcomes.
2. Represent the relevant client at all case related meetings, conduct advocacy, including contested hearings at appropriate court hearings/small claims case management hearings/ dispute resolution hearings/tribunals/mediation/public inquiries/panels/committees, as required by the relevant department, with limited supervision.
3. Support the wider areas of the Legal Services Unit (LSU) with straightforward to moderately complex casework with the required training and appropriate supervision, in order to help achieve the objectives of the LSU.
4. Deliver on key projects in order to meet the objectives of the respective team. Projects may relate to case related work to support the client service or work on governance, processes or policies to support the wider authority. All project work will involve working with multiple professional clients or external partners and will relate to improvements in service delivery or supporting income generation or recovery within Legal Services.

5. Ensure strict adherence to the Legal Service Units quality standards (Lexcel) including time-recording, in order to maintain the professional standards and contribute to the process of securing re-accreditation as and when required.
6. Achieve chargeable hour targets as set by the Legal Services Manager in a consistent way.
7. Undertake training as required by their training plan and personal objectives identified and support in the delivery of in-service training to the client department.
8. Handle confidential data sensitively and securely in accordance with policy and statutory requirements.
9. Contribute positively to the Legal Services Unit's marketing and selling services commercial activities when required, in order to support the wider business objectives.
10. Appraise the work and professional development of any staff that they line manage and other more junior posts that may be designated from time to time.
11. Develop and maintain an understanding of the overall financial picture in order to help achieve the financial objectives of the LSU
12. Carrying out such other duties as may reasonably be required.

Other Information

This post is designated as a casual car user.

The post holder will need to meet the travel requirements of the role locally, regionally and nationally.

This post has no political restriction.

Professional Accountabilities:

The post holder is required to contribute to the achievement of the Council objectives through:

Financial Management

Personal accountability for delivering services efficiently, effectively, within budget and to implement any approved savings and investment allocated to the service.

People Management

Engaging with People Management policies and processes

Equalities

Ensuring that all work is completed with a commitment to equality and anti-discriminatory practice, as a minimum to standards required by legislation.

Climate Change

Delivering energy conservation practices in line with the Council's climate change strategy.

Health and Safety

Ensuring a work environment that protects people's health and safety and that promotes welfare, and which is in accordance with the Council's Health & Safety policy.

Safeguarding

Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups.

The content of this Job Description and Person Specification will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Person Specification

A = Assessed at Application

I = Assessed at Interview

T = Assessed through Test

Minimum Criteria for Disability Confident Scheme *	Criteria	Measured by
	Qualifications/Professional membership Solicitor/Lawyer with practising certificate, Fellow of CILEX or a Barrister with practising certificate	A
  	Knowledge and Experience - Proven experience in the relevant field in a legal environment - Demonstrate an understanding of the law relating to the role - Whilst no previous local government experience is necessary, must demonstrate an in depth understanding of the work done by the council and a general awareness of the political governance arrangements of the council - Demonstrable experience of completing all aspects of legal casework with limited supervision - Experience of representing the relevant client department at all case related meetings - Experience of representing the relevant client department and conduct advocacy, including contests at appropriate court hearings/small claims case management hearings/ dispute resolution hearings/tribunals/mediation/public inquiries/panels/committees, as required by the relevant department with limited supervision. - Demonstrable experience of working under pressure, meeting competing demands, and consistently maintaining a high standard of work - Experience of handling and processing sensitive data in accordance with policy and guidance	A A A A A/I A/I A/I/T A/I/T

	• Experience of using IT, with the ability to work all elements of M365 and a case management system • Experience of supervising or mentoring more junior staff members • Experience of working within set budgetary restraints	A/I/T A/I/T A/I
 	Skills • Ability to clearly, and engagingly communicate in all media forms; verbally, digitally and in writing • Ability to draft straightforward to moderately complex legal documents • Ability to influence, persuade and negotiate • Ability to work effectively both as a team member and independently • Able to use own initiative • Flexible and able to adapt to change and aim to achieve continuous improvement • Effective time management and prioritisation skills • Meticulous attention to detail • Ability to delegate work in order to create capacity	A A A/I A/I A/I A/I A/I/T A/I/T A/I



*If a disabled person meets the criteria indicated by the Disability Confident scheme symbol and provides evidence of this on their application form, they will be guaranteed an interview. This scheme will also apply to Care Leavers and Armed Forces/Veterans.

We are proud to display the Disability Confidence Symbol, which is a recognition given by Job Centre Plus to employers who agree to meet specific requirements regarding the recruitment, employment, retention, and career development of disabled people.

If you need a copy of this information in large print, braille, another language on cassette or disc, please ask us by contacting Talent & Resourcing Team 01785 278300