

## APPLYING FOR A JOB WITH NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### IMPORTANT ADVICE ON COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION

Your application form plays an important part in your selection. Please ensure you address all the essential requirements listed in the specifications. The following advice should help you to complete the application form as effectively as possible.

#### Rehabilitation of Offenders

If the post you are applying for requires you to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check you will be required to disclose full details of your criminal history prior to your interview. This information may be discussed with you at your interview in order to assess job related risks, but we emphasise that your application will be considered on merit and ability and you will not be discriminated against unfairly. Failure to disclose this information will result in any offer of employment being withdrawn.

A DBS check will be carried out for successful applicants where the post applied for involves access to children and/or vulnerable adults. This check for disclosure of criminal history will include spent convictions, pending prosecutions / current court proceeding and police enquiries. In the event of employment, any failure to disclose such convictions will normally result in dismissal by the authority. Any information given will be completely confidential and will be considered only in relation to this application.

#### Information in Support of your Application

Every post advertised is supported by a full person specification. The specification lists all the essential skills, experience and qualifications which are necessary for the job and the criteria against which you will be assessed, both through your application form and at interview.

As part of the application process, you may have been asked to demonstrate within this application form how you meet some or all of the criteria or key competencies outlined in the person specification. Rather than simply repeating your career history, look at the skills and experience required by the job and provide evidence that you possess them by giving **specific and detailed examples** which include a focus on outcomes and on your own contribution to the scenario. Try to use different and varied examples wherever possible.

When completing these sections, do not forget the skills and experience you have gained outside full-time work. Outlining your previous work experience or other responsibilities may help you to uncover skills which you have taken for granted and which are clear signs of your ability to do the job.

#### Canvassing

You must not try to influence an elected Council Member, or any council employee, or if you are applying to a school, a member of the school governing body, to act in your favour, as this will disqualify you. If you are related to a Councillor, a Council employee or a governor you must indicate this in the relevant section of the application form.

## **1. Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders**

1. As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, North Yorkshire County Council complies fully with the DBS Code of practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
2. North Yorkshire County Council is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
3. We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is made available to all Disclosure applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.
4. We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
5. A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.
6. Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to a designated person within North Yorkshire County Council and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
7. Unless the nature of the position allows North Yorkshire County Council to ask questions about your entire criminal record we only ask about the "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
8. We ensure that all those in the North Yorkshire County Council who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
9. At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to the withdrawal of an offer of employment.
10. We make every subject of a DBS Disclosure aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.
11. We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
12. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.