Wigan Council

Experts at Hand Wigan

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Date:

www.wigan.gov.uk

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Welcome

At Wigan, people are at the centre of everything we do. Our partnership work is driven by an asset-based approach that values the strengths of our communities, empowers our workforce, and gives us the permission to innovate with purpose. The commitment, behaviours and collaborative spirit of our teams shape the way we work and lie at the heart of the impact we make across the borough.

We were immensely proud of our services for children and young people, with our recent Ofsted inspection recognising they are good with outstanding features. Inspectors recognised that we are significantly enriching children's lives and widening their opportunities. The 'exceptional support' highlighted in the report is a powerful reflection of how far we have come and the dedication of our people.

As the national and local education and inclusion landscape continues to evolve, this an exciting time to join Wigan - you will have autonomy to work with colleagues from across the borough and wider, driving transformation that secures aspirational opportunities and an excellent SEND offer for every child and young person in our borough.

Together, we will continue to build a borough where every child and young person can thrive, and where our shared mission of unity drives us forward.

This is such an exciting time to join us.

Claire Williamson

Director Education and Belonging

What is Experts at Hand?

Experts at Hand is Wigan's commitment to ensuring that specialist SEND expertise is accessible, responsive and embedded within communities and schools.

Rather than waiting for issues to escalate, our model brings together Educational Psychologists, Specialist Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and SEND professionals to provide:

- Earlier intervention
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Stronger partnerships with schools
- Family-centred support
- Improved inclusion
- Better long-term outcomes.

Our specialists work alongside one another, sharing expertise and building capacity across schools and settings. This creates a truly integrated service where professional knowledge is not held within silos but is available when it is needed most.

Educational Psychologists will remain within the Educational Psychology (EP) Service and will continue to be line managed by the Principal Educational Psychologist. For part of their time, they will work in alignment with the Experts at Hand model, providing specialist input and support.

Experts at Hand means expertise without barriers.

It means children getting help earlier.

It means schools feeling supported.

It means families knowing they are not facing challenges alone.

And it means professionals having the opportunity to work in innovative ways that genuinely make a difference

About Wigan as a place

Wigan is an exciting and vibrant borough, encompassing Wigan and Leigh towns, serving approximately 330,000 residents. Geographically it lies between the major cities of Manchester and Liverpool and affords great transport links, making Wigan an ideal destination to live, work and visit.

Complemented by many outdoor spaces to enjoy, the Wigan borough has plenty of great places to visit. Our residents enjoy living close to beautiful countryside, as 70% of Wigan's 77 square miles is green open space. This 'Greenheart' includes stunning flashes, woodlands, wetlands, canals, and green space. It is a great place for outdoor activities for all the family to explore.

Wigan is also home to many high quality and beautifully maintained parks such as Mesnes Park and Lilford Park. For the more adventurous, Haigh Woodland Park has a high ropes course, mini golf, train rides and nature walks as well as the chance to see the grand Haigh Hall, dating back to the early 19th century and owned by Lord Crawford.

You can find out more about what Wigan has to offer on our website.

Why Professionals Choose Wigan

- A supportive, welcoming and collaborative team culture.
- Opportunities to engage in a broad and varied range of work, including consultation, training, project work and systemic practice.
- Strong professional relationships with schools, services and partners.
- A commitment to reflective practice, high-quality supervision and professional development.
- Opportunities to develop specialist interests and areas of expertise.
- A strong sense of connection to the local community and the opportunity to make a tangible difference to the lives of children, young people and families.

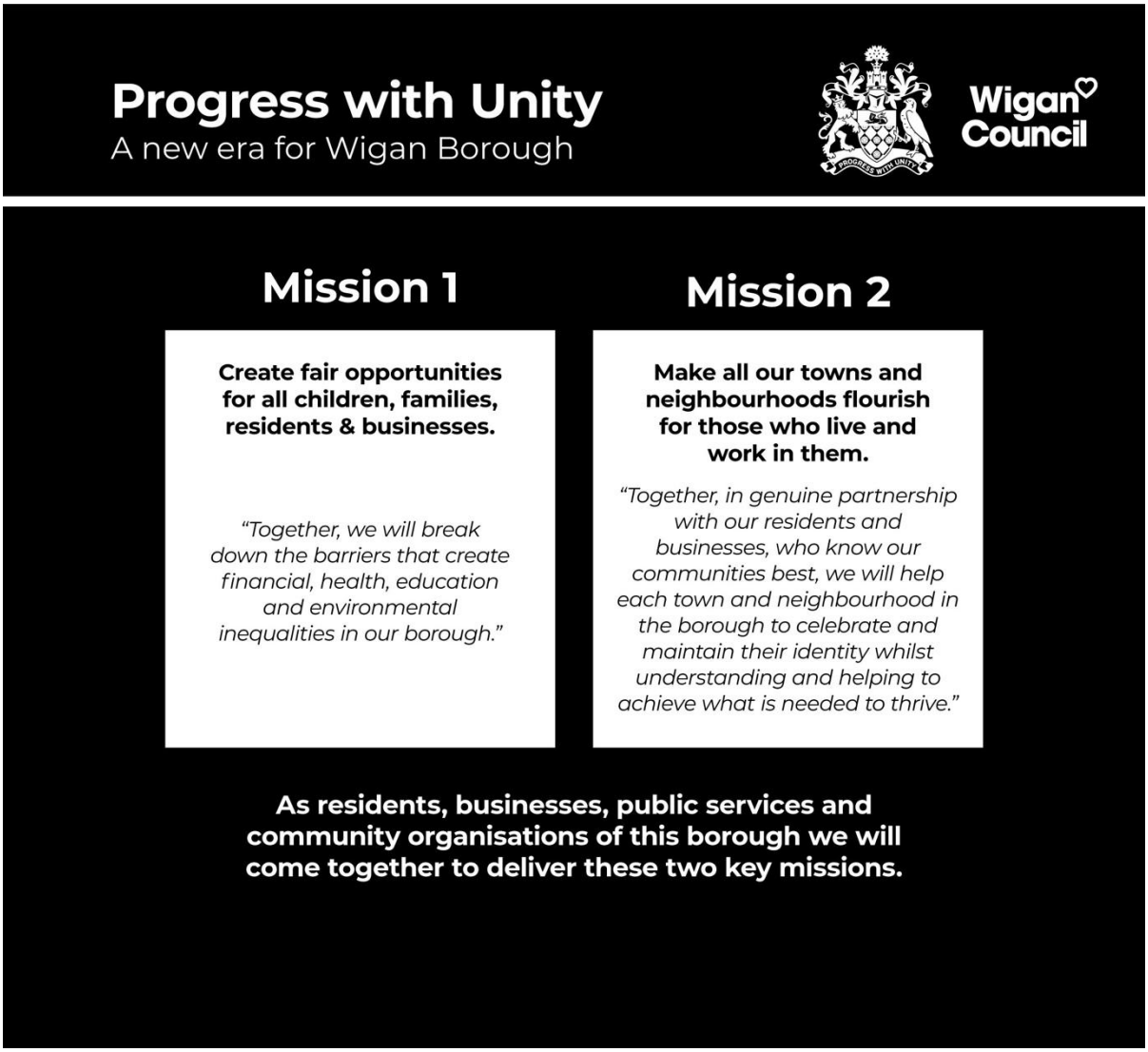
Work for Wigan Council

As one of the biggest employers in the borough we have focussed on our relationship with staff through an innovative range of engagement, reward, and recognition initiatives. We are frequently at the forefront of service development having been crowned 'Council of the Year' in a variety of awards over the years along with being winners in other prestigious awards for aspects of our workforce development, community engagement and town developments.

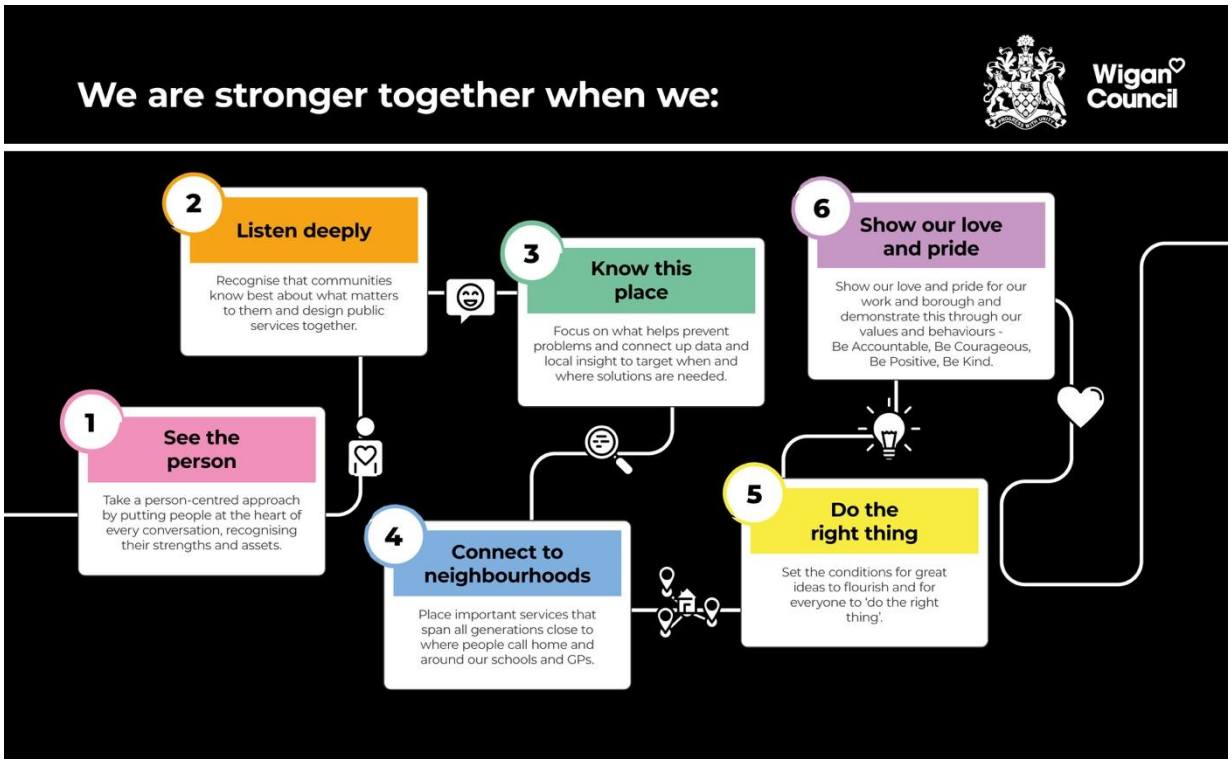
As an organisation we have a vision for Wigan borough to be the best possible place for people to live and work.

Our journey

A decade ago, we responded to austerity by re-imagining our approach to public service delivery and our relationship with residents, communities and partners. Ten years on, new challenges have emerged. To meet these challenges we undertook a journey of honest reflection with our residents, partners and communities, with the aim of recommitting to what has been effective, while also refreshing our strategic purpose and ways of working. Our new movement 'Progress with Unity' builds on all of our existing strengths, while bringing together the council and local partners to commit to two shared, borough-wide missions:



We also listened carefully to what people told us were important when staff were working with residents or in partnership. We know we are stronger together when we work in this way:



We care for our staff

Wigan Council has been named an excellent employer, by the Workplace Wellbeing Charter, a national accreditation that recognises businesses that achieve the highest standards in workforce wellbeing. Achieving the highest level of excellence in five of the eight Workplace Wellbeing Charter standards and scoring highly in the other three areas shows how Wigan's commitment to our staff and caring for the health and wellbeing of Team Wigan is real!

If you are courageous, positive, accountable, and kind then Wigan Council is the perfect place for your next career move

Rewards and benefits

We are passionate about celebrating our employee's contribution and inspiring them to thrive. It's really important to us that they feel valued and rewarded for the work that they do. As an employer, we want to thank employees for all their hard work and commitment by giving them the opportunity to access a range of exclusive rewards and benefits. From a generous pension scheme and a range of wellbeing support to an employee benefits platform – what we offer at Wigan is much more than just a payslip. Here are some of the fantastic benefits available for our employees making sure their wellbeing, money, career and work-life balance is cared for.

Roles available and how to apply

To apply for our Experts at Hand roles, please click the job title of the role you are interested in applying for and you will be directed to the relevant site to complete your application.

Job title: Service Manager – Experts at Hand

Number of posts: 1 FTE

Job title: Senior Educational Psychologist

Number of posts: 1 FTE

Job title: Educational Psychologists (including 2 Early Years EPs)

Number of posts: 5 FTE

Job title: Assistant Educational Psychologists

Number of posts: 2 FTE

Job title: Emotional School Based Avoidance Officer

Number of posts: 1 FTE