

MEDWAY COUNCIL - JOB PROFILE

JOB TITLE	Experienced Social Worker
DIRECTORATE	Children and Adults
SERVICE AREA	Children in Care Teams
RESPONSIBLE TO	Team Manager
GRADE	SWCS2A
JOB FAMILY/LEVEL	PSW0254

MAIN PURPOSE OF JOB

To provide a high quality and effective professional casework service, taking responsibility for working and managing a caseload within a framework of appropriate supervision, dependent upon the complexities of these cases and the social worker's experience.

To comply with legislation, statutory guidance and local policies and procedures.

To be competent in all areas of the PCF at Social Worker level and The Knowledge and Skills Statement (KSS) for approved child and family practitioners.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Manage a caseload within a framework of appropriate reflective supervision, undertaking focused, analytical assessments, SMART care plans and reviews that have clear objectives and outcome measures in order to ensure that all looked after children receive a service that reflects the Council's commitment to achieving positive outcomes for our looked after children.

Demonstrate and model good practice that reflects a commitment to relationship and strengths based practice, working collaboratively with children and their families.

Work directly with children and young people to establish their lived experiences, wishes and feelings, using a variety of techniques, as required.

To work with children and families in a variety of diverse and complex contexts, such as mental ill health, disability, substance misuse, domestic abuse, sexual and criminal exploitation, radicalisation, poverty, discrimination, and immigration.

Consistently use the Signs of Safety practice model in assessments and interventions with looked after children, their families and their carers.

Demonstrate the ability to collaboratively engage and develop quality Life-story work with all Looked After Children so they have a good understanding of their family and their story both in care and before care.

Regularly review the progress and implementation of children's care plans and update these based on new assessments or significant changes in the child's circumstances.

Demonstrate the ability to influence others in an effort to help coordinate support services in the best way possible to keep children as safe and well cared for as possible.

Prepare clear, structured and concise reports for meetings, i.e. Looked After Children Reviews, Permanency Planning Meetings, Legal Planning Meetings and Care Proceedings as necessary, to the required standard and within the prescribed timescales.

Keep up to date with research findings, theoretical models and innovative practice within the social work field in order to maintain the highest professional standards.

Participate in regular reflective supervision with your manager to review casework and critically reflect on, and identify any areas of learning.

Maintain accurate and up to date records in line with Data Protection legislation (GDPR) and use Medway Council's specific recording systems to keep contemporaneous case notes, regularly updating records, reports, plans and assessments so that information and planning for the children you work with is the most relevant and current.

Maintain a record of continuous professional development in accordance with Social Work England's guidance.

Keep up to date with the Council's organisational policies, government guidance, legislation, research and national trends in order to maintain the highest professional standards.

KEY CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITIES

To actively promote work life balance and flexible working in order to achieve high quality service delivery.

To actively promote the Council's Fair Access, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and observe the standard of conduct which prevents discrimination taking place.

To ensure full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Council's Health and Safety Policy and all locally agreed safe methods of work.

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To fully understand and be aware of the commitment to Section 17 of the duty of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prevent crime and disorder.

At the discretion of the Head of Service, such other activities as may from time to time be agreed in line with the nature of the job described above.

ACCOUNTABILITIES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The children and young people of Medway have said the following qualities are really important to them:

- ✓ Be a good listener
- ✓ Be non-judgemental
- ✓ Be consistent and Stable
- ✓ Be contactable
- ✓ Understand me
- ✓ Be honest
- ✓ Be Focused
- ✓ Be realistic
- ✓ Be a good timekeeper
- ✓ Be resourceful in your approach

Be ambitious for young people and promote others to share the same drive.

Champion Children and Young People's views and rights in everything you do.

Ensure Children and Young People's voices are listened to and acted upon.

'Do what you say and say what you do'.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS	Assessment Method
Qualified Social Worker.	Application
Successful completion of ASYE year together with two years' experience of working with children and families.	Application
Working towards Practice Educator Professional Standards (<i>Desirable</i>)	Application
Registration with Social Work England	Application
EXPERIENCE	
Proven experience in the use of 'Signs of Safety' or a willingness to be trained.	Application
Demonstrable experience in relationship and strengths-based practice, working collaboratively with children, young people and their families	Application / Interview
Demonstrable experience of undertaking direct work with children and young people.	Application / Interview
Demonstrable experience in child protection, looked after children and court work.	Application / Interview
Proven experience in one or more areas of social work practice i.e., Substance misuse, sexual and criminal exploitation and have a broader knowledge of local and national resource networks.	Application/ Interview
KNOWLEDGE	
Ability to use advanced theoretical/practical/procedural/organisational /policy knowledge across a specialist area	Application
Knowledge and experience of working with vulnerable children in a statutory setting.	Application / Interview
Knowledge and experience in the application of relevant legislation, statutory guidance, standards and local policies and procedures.	Application / Interview
Demonstrable knowledge and experience in the application of relevant theoretical frameworks, practice models and research findings.	Interview

Ability to demonstrate awareness of legislation relating to General Data Protection Regulations and Freedom of Information.	Application
SKILLS	
Demonstrable ability to build sound, productive working relationships with colleagues, partners and other staff.	Interview
Demonstrates strong assessment skills and analysis of relevant information and develops multi agency SMART plans to improve outcomes for children and young people using evidence-based practice.	Interview
Engages effectively with children and families and has experience of using different tools and methodologies to communicate with children and young people.	Interview
Ability to maintain accurate and up to date case records in a timely manner.	Interview
Ability to write high quality written reports which are suitable for a variety of professional settings.	Interview
Ability to analyse and interpret varied and complex information, developing strategies and solutions for the medium and long term.	Interview
Ability to use well developed communication skills to present complex/sensitive information in an understandable way, to a range of audiences.	Interview
Competent in the use of Microsoft Office packages as well as an electronic integrated children's system (eg: MOSAIC or similar).	Application
Ability to practice effectively and competently with an increasing level of autonomy and independence.	Interview
Ability to make good quality judgements and sound decisions in situations of increasing complexity, risk, uncertainty and challenge, and be able to effectively explain and justify decisions.	Interview
Ability to determine which interventions, knowledge and skills to deploy to effectively respond to different issues.	Interview
Ability to carry out tasks which impact on the wellbeing of people, including assessing needs, implementing care/welfare, implementing regulations, providing guidance on internal procedures and interpreting policies and procedures to meet	Interview

specific circumstances or problems.	
Ability to work under pressure and manage time and workload effectively.	Interview
Ability to work within a court setting and other professional settings.	Interview
Ability to work effectively as part of a team to achieve team and service plan objectives and targets.	Interview
Ability to maintain confidentiality at all times	Interview
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	
Car driver and daily use of a car for business purposes	Application
Commitment to continuous professional development	Interview
Ability to demonstrate a commitment to individual and reflective supervision	Interview
An understanding of Social Work England's professional standards and a commitment to upholding them in your practice.	Application
Enhanced DBS check.	

ORGANISATION

(i) ORGANISATION CHART

(ii) DESCRIBE HOW AND BY WHOM THE POST IS MANAGED

The post holder will be line managed by the Team Manager

(iii) DESCRIBE THE LEVEL OF INITIATIVE AND/OR INDEPENDENCE EXPECTED OF THE POST HOLDER

The post holder will work independently within clear guidelines and regularly use initiative to make decisions, referring to more senior officers for advice on policy/resource issues.

(iv) DESCRIBE ANY SUPERVISORY/MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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The post holder will have no direct line management responsibility, although they will be expected to assist and provide support to less experienced staff.

(v) JOB CONTEXT - DESCRIBE THE MAIN CONTACTS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AND THE PURPOSE OF THOSE CONTACTS

The post holder will be required to liaise with all stakeholders both internal and external to the organisation, including working with Police, YOT, Youth Service, Education services, Health, Schools and other professionals both within and outside of the team, young people and their families.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

None; however the post holder must have the ability to understand cost implications of resource allocation, financial packages and make recommendations to managers about efficient and cost effective use of resources.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The post holder will be based in one of Medway Council's establishments.

WORKING STYLE

The workstyle for this role has been assessed as 'Hybrid'. This means the post holder will have a flexible workstyle and be able to work from a variety of locations. There is an expectation that the post holder will be office based for a minimum of 2 days each week.

This post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such appointment to this post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Disclosure and Barring service (DBS)