



Job Description

Job Title: Young Person's Advocate

POSCODE: 742 (August 2023)

Grade: J

Overall Purpose of Role

To support children and young people who are involved in Child Protection Conferences or who are looked after; to enable them to participate in their meetings and ensure their views are communicated and considered throughout all related processes.

To assist young people to participate in policy making and procedures to improve services.

To offer support and guidance for any young person who makes a complaint about services in Children's Social Care.

Main Accountabilities

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1	To organise, co-ordinate, meet and provide information to young people prior to Child in Care Reviews or any other meeting to support them to prepare for involvement and participation.
2	To design, develop and update a website for young people in order to provide useful information and a comprehensive signposting service regarding statutory Children's Services
3	To provide individual advice to children and young people to ensure good practice, that their rights are recognised and that they are not being treated unfairly.
4	To use creative ways to empower young people so they can express and communicate their views.
5	To attend Child Protection Conferences Review or other meetings either with or on behalf of the young people according to their wishes and circumstances.
6	To develop and promote specific participation initiatives for children and young people and other service users who may not readily gain access to the service.

7	To work with colleagues from the Independent Visitors Service - a statutory befriending service for children looked after. This involves recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers and the matching of Independent Visitors with young people.
8	To demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behavioural, physical, social and welfare needs.
9	To ensure that reasonable care is taken at all times for the health, safety and welfare of yourself, others and to comply with the policies and procedures relating to health and safety with the Trust.

Safeguarding commitment

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults. We require you to understand and demonstrate this commitment.

Person Specification

Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Minimum level of qualifications needed for this post

Qualifications Required	Subject	Essential/Desirable
Professional Qualification	Youth Work; Social Work; Advocate; Communities Officer; Occupational Therapist; Teacher/Teaching Assistant, Police Officer (or similar)	Essential

Minimum levels of knowledge, skills and experience required for this post

Identify	Details	Essential/Desirable
Knowledge:		
Knowledge and understanding of the issues facing young people in society	Understanding of contemporary issues faced by young people – peer-on-peer abuse; sexting; knife crime; CSE; child exploitation etc.	Essential
Understand of the boundaries of confidentiality	Effective safeguarding – limits to confidentiality, whilst building trusted relationships.	Essential
Skills:		
Ability to use creative ways to empower young people to express their views	Use of direct work tools, including resources to help younger children or children with additional needs to communicate effectively.	Essential
Ability to use effective communication skills	Related to the points above – capability to engage a wide age and ability range of young people to act as effective Advocate for them.	Essential
Ability to organise work and record information	Keep up-to-date accurate records of interventions and engagement with children and young people, record using Signs of Safety templates and into the children’s database.	Essential
Experience:		
Experience of providing information to young people	Being able to impart information about statutory children’s service’s functions and help young people to understand decision-making	Essential
Experience of one to one work and small group work with young people	Able to utilise engagement opportunities according to young people’s needs & wishes – virtual, hybrid, or face-to-face; 1:1 or in small group settings	Essential

Equal opportunities	Ability to demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behaviour, physical, social and welfare needs	Essential
Safeguarding	Demonstrate an understanding of the safe working practices that apply to this role.	Essential

Disclosure Level

What DBS Level is required for this post?

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhanced Child Only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhanced Child/Adult Bar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Working Arrangements

What work type does this role fit into?

Fixed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home	<input type="checkbox"/>