

Kent County Council
Job Description: *Social Work Assistant*

Directorate:	Children, Young People and Education
Unit/Section:	Children's Social Services
Grade:	KSE
Responsible to:	Family Time Co-ordinator

Purpose of the Job:

Work as part of one of the teams within Specialist Children's Services to support and deliver social work to the children and families that we engage with, in line with statutory requirements, directorate policy and national legislation. This includes informing and assisting Social Workers in completing assessments and care plan recommendations, alongside support work for and with individual young people.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Facilitate, supervise and document family time sessions between children and significant relatives to enable children to get the most from the sessions, whilst supporting and directing the parents as appropriate. Assessments and observations at this session to be used to identify issues and inform recommendations for the care plan and records may be used in court.
- Engage directly with the children and families we work with to provide discrete, targeted elements of supportive work to achieve identified outcomes as guided by Social Workers.
- Develop and nurture good working relationships with the families, foster carers and other key professionals that we interact with. Supporting in the arrangement of childminders, nursery placements, transport and contact arrangements etc as appropriate, to assist with the successful implementation of the care plans.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of your contribution to children's care plans in consultation with other key professionals reporting back to the Family Time Co-ordinator in supervision about the outcomes achieved in accordance with Directorate requirements.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what their main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post

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Person Specification: *Social Work Assistant*

The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	CRITERIA
QUALIFICATIONS	• Level 3 Diploma working with children or equivalent qualification • Education and attendance on internal or external childcare courses • A Full UK Driving Licence – The Council is committed to making reasonable adjustments so whilst this job requires the jobholder to drive your application will still be considered if you are unable to drive due to a disability.
EXPERIENCE	• Experience of supervising contact sessions between children and families • Proven direct work and life story work with children, some gained within a local authority
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	• Ability to communicate with children and young people • Excellent interpersonal skills in order to communicate with colleagues • Ability to work effectively in a team • Good report writing skills and ability to communicate clearly in writing • Ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day
KNOWLEDGE	• General working knowledge of The Children Act 1989, and working knowledge of childcare practice
PERSONAL QUALITIES	• Trustworthy and respecting of confidentiality • Flexible • Commitment to Equal Opportunities • Willingness to undergo training

**KENT VALUES AND
CULTURAL
ATTRIBUTES**

Kent Values:

- We are **brave**. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge
- We are **curious** to innovate and improve
- We are **compassionate**, understanding and respectful to all
- We are **strong together** by sharing knowledge
- We are all **responsible** for the difference we make Our values enable us to build a culture that is:

Flexible/agile - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile

Curious - constantly learning and evolving

Compassionate and Inclusive - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all

Working Together - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent

Empowering - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions

Externally Focused - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making