

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Senior Practitioner OOH*

Directorate:	Children, Young People and Education
Unit/Section:	Specialist Children's Services
Grade:	KSI
Responsible to:	Team Manager

Purpose of the Job:

Act as a first responder for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrive at Dover. Manage the work required to progress the child to the correct accommodation dependent upon their age and level of vulnerability. Including the required steps for progressing the children to become Children in Care to the local authority. These will be complex and diverse cases that will involve assessment, planning and implementation to ensure the children are safeguarded and well cared for.

Raise the standard of professional work within the Team by contributing to training initiatives and "in-house" core training courses whilst consolidating a breadth of social work practice.

Postholder should be working in line with the competency standards set out in the Competency Assessment Social Worker Career Grade.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Undertake initial assessments of newly arrived unaccompanied asylum-seeking children at Dover before placing them in accommodation appropriate for their needs.
- Act as Duty Senior in the absence of the Team Manager to direct and support the team in identifying, planning and delivering its core tasks of safeguarding and supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into the local authority's care. This may involve arranging transport or transporting child(ren) to their placement.
- Work closely with the Home Office team at Dover to ensure the smooth progression of the children through the process to avoid lengthy delays for the child.
- Work closely with and develop good working relationships with the Kent UASC Team, to provide high quality professional social work knowledge and expertise. This will include assisting the UASC team to ensure core tasks are carried out to a high standard when required.
- Work closely with and develop good working relationships with the Kent and Medway Out Of Hours Service. This may include assisting the OOHs team to ensure core tasks are carried out to a high standard when required
- To undertake staff supervision as directed by the Team Manager when required according to the needs of the team.

- Work in partnership with the child, statutory and third sector agencies including Police, Health, the Home Office, solicitors, Refugee Council and Young Lives Foundation when required to effect positive outcomes for children.
- Maintain an awareness of changes in child development etc., and related theories, legislation, corporate and directorate policies, local and agency practices, in order to disseminate knowledge and contribute to the delivery of a high standard of service.
- Liaise regularly with peer colleagues throughout the Directorate to ensure social work staff deliver existing and new practices consistently and to a high standard across the Directorate.
- Contribute to the development of new initiatives and new ways of working through attendance on identified Working Groups, Multi-Agency forums and training courses. Act as a lead for identified pieces of work to assist the development and continuing improvement of the service.

Note: Postholders in this role will be required to work at Dover to support newly arrived unaccompanied asylum-seeking children during their shifts (evenings and weekends) when there are new arrivals in or expected at the Port of Dover.

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: *Senior Practitioner OOH*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree in Social Work, CQSW/DipSW or equivalent and registration as a social worker with Social Work England • Evidence of relevant professional development
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial and diverse experience of working with children and families • Experience and knowledge of child care planning and placement, ranging from straight forward to highly complex • Experience of providing consultation, mentoring and developing qualified staff/Social Work Assistants or equivalent. • Experience of systemic practice e.g. signs of safety
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a high standard of direct work skills with children and their families • Ability to quality assure through supervision, case audit and review to ensure high standards of practice within the team. • Ability to supervise and develop including other social worker staff • Computer literate with good written skills for report and assessment writing • Good interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with clients and colleagues • Interest/desire to lead in training courses • Supervisory, mediation and negotiation skills • Ability to work effectively on own initiative as well as within a team • 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. • Ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner when required.
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of working knowledge of The Children’s Act 1989, Placement of Children Regulations, Foster Placement Regulations and Child Care Regulations • Good working knowledge of County Procedures relating to Looked After Children, Children in Need and Children in need of Protection. • Good understanding of Quality Protects – Transforming Children’s Services, Working Together • Understand and apply the concepts of child development, attachment, separation, loss, change and resilience. • Demonstrate a clear understanding of human rights and choice including mental capacity. • Good working knowledge of the Assessment Framework
BEHAVIOURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional credibility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional curiosity • Enthusiasm • Innovative/flexibility • Leadership skills • Commitment to Equal Opportunities
PERSONAL QUALITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to attend regular training opportunities • Emotional Resilience • Professional credibility • Professional curiosity • Enthusiasm/flexibility • Commitment to equal opportunities
KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES	<p>Kent Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Our values enable us to build a culture that is:</p> <p>Flexible/agile - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile</p> <p>Curious - constantly learning and evolving</p> <p>Compassionate and Inclusive - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</p> <p>Working Together - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent</p> <p>Empowering - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions</p> <p>Externally Focused - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making</p>