

Kent County Council

Job Description: Social Worker

Directorate:	Adult Social Care and Health
Unit/Section:	ESS
Grade:	KSG
Responsible to:	Team Manager – Short Term Pathways

Purpose of the Job:

Act as the primary worker for clients with more complex needs during the assessment period of the ESS pathway, as assigned following integrated triage. Manage the assessment process for clients, ensuring the identification of needs and outcomes required. Promote all options for an individual's independence and establish the appropriate level of ongoing resource allocation to meet their support needs through the creation of a Care and Support Plan.

Work in an integrated way with Health professionals to ensure clients receive a coordinated, clear and consistent service between Health and Social Care.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Conduct proportionate, observation based, functional and holistic assessments for clients with more complex needs. Establish the client's abilities, circumstances and support mechanisms to determine the level of resource required to optimise the individual's independence including equipment or minor adaptations.
- Ensure that clients are empowered and actively participate in the assessment process and ensure that they are at the centre of decision making so that opportunities for choice and control over their support arrangements are optimised. Ensure enablement is promoted to clients with a view to assisting them to regain or increase levels of independence as far as possible.
- Identify and refer for specialist input into the Assessment as needed (for example: Sensory Services, Occupational Therapy, Autism Services, Health Services, Safeguarding and Social Work)
- Arrange temporary and/or emergency support, where needed, so that a person's immediate requirements are met and supported.
- Identify a person's eligible needs and outcomes. Explore all appropriate options and identify how best to meet these needs through the development of a Care and Support Plan. Refer the case through to the Practice Assurance panel, be accountable for your professional decision making and use the panel for validation of the decision making when the client has unmet eligible needs.

- Provide professional advice and guidance to staff in the Promoting Independence team and other teams within ESS, across the Directorate and multi-agency staff on a range of issues in relation to a client's support needs to enhance the decision making process.
- Offer positive peer challenge and professional support. Support the maintenance of good practice standards and enable continued development of professional skills that meet service requirements. Lead and contribute to a range of service related projects as they arise.
- Identify and refer appropriate circumstances to the relevant specialist team to ensure that clients, their families and related individuals are fully supported as required.
- Support the Team Manager in the supervision of an agreed number of staff in accordance with supervision protocols, to maintain high practice standards and enable continued development of professional skills that meet service requirements. Provide professional supervision for students on practice placements with the team, planning a range of work experience, supporting their development, monitoring progress and supporting the embedding of the student's learning in practice.
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships across the organisation to ensure the smooth transition of clients through the operating model. Ensure that both the Directorate and client requirements are met and consistently delivered, working as part of a multidisciplinary team to ensure that all clients are on the most appropriate care pathway.
- Develop and maintain an extensive knowledge of available resources and maintain links with partner agencies in order to offer the broadest range of options to clients in developing their support packages, and act as a Trusted Assessor for prescribing of equipment.
- Create and maintain accurate, up to date and reliable data, information and records in line with information governance framework requirements, standards and best practice to ensure compliance with legislation.
- Support the senior managers in building resilience within the team, responding to emergency planning issues and ensuring there are business continuity arrangements in place at all times.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what his/her 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 Worker

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	• Relevant degree, diploma or related professional qualification in Social Work • Up to date registration with Social Work England • Competent to work at the Practitioner level of the Social Care Capabilities Framework for Registered Workers • 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	• Proven post qualification experience, in Social Services, Health related agencies or related private or voluntary organisation, of a magnitude that enables the post holder to have achieved the relevant level of the Capabilities Framework • Working in a multi-agency environment/partnership • Experience within a specialist area (i.e. long term conditions, transition etc) • Experience of undertaking Assessments and developing Care and Support plans
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	• Ability to communicate effectively with clients, carers, colleagues and partner agencies through written and verbal communications • Ability to gather and assimilate information in order to complete Assessments and develop Care and Support Plans • Ability to build and develop effective working relationships across a wide range of internal and external partners • Good observational and functional assessment skills • IT skills and effective use of Microsoft Office programs • Able to work effectively under own initiative and as part of a team • Ability to prioritise, forward plan and work effectively on own initiative as well as part of a team • Supervision, mediation and negotiation skills • Ability to contribute to and lead a range of service related projects • Ability and commitment to support the Directorate's Equality and Diversity Policy Statement which is an integral part of the Directorate's service delivery

	• Ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner to ensure the needs of the service are met, including evening and weekend working when required
KNOWLEDGE	• An evidenced based understanding and application of key policies, legislation and statutory guidance, and eligibility criteria relating to provision of support to the client group, including the Care Act • Understanding of Person Centred Planning and approaches • Awareness of the local resources available in the community • Knowledge of potential safeguarding issues and understanding of the referral process • Working knowledge of Direct Payments • Detailed understanding of the Mental Capacity Act and undertaking Mental Capacity Assessments • Compliance with information governance, record retention, confidentiality issues and the General Data Protection • Regulations of data protection and confidentiality issues
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

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