

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Fostering Senior Practitioner*

Directorate: Children, Young People and Education

Unit/Section: Specialist Children's Services

Grade: KR11

Responsible to: Team Manager

Purpose of the Job:

Manage a Children & Families caseload of higher levels of complexity, involving the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of appropriate action, to ensure that resources to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and their families. The postholder should be working in line with the Competency Framework.

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.

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

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Manage a high and diverse number of cases within the parameters of agreed policies and practices, together with the professional guidance and support from Senior Practitioners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and meet their individual needs.
- Work in partnership with the child, parents and carers, Health Service including Acute and Community Trusts and with Primary Care Trusts, Education Authority, District Councils, commercial and private sector and voluntary bodies to identify, evaluate and review care plans to produce positive outcomes for children and their families.
- Assist the Senior Practitioner and other colleagues in identifying, planning and delivering its core tasks of recruiting, assessment, training and supervision of client carers to a high professional standard.
- Work in a cross-section of social work teams, through secondments etc., to continually develop and consolidate knowledge base and level of skills and enabling the assignment of more complex caseloads to meet the ever changing needs of the children and their families.
- 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.

- Attend regular “in-house” core training courses, compile a portfolio of evidence supported by experiences in the field to achieve appropriate competency levels within practice level three of the Competency Assessment Social Worker Career Grade.
- Prepare applications for submission to Family Courts and represent the County Council’s Children & Families Service as and when required in Court in accordance with the County Council’s procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- In liaison with the Senior Practitioner, operate across a variety of Children & Families teams to gain a diverse level of knowledge and experience that meets the appropriate practice competency level and a high standard of service delivery.

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: *Fostering Senior Practitioner*

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	Degree in Social Work, CQSW/DipSW or equivalent and registration as a qualified Social Worker with Social Work England Consolidation Module
EXPERIENCE	Diverse post qualification practice experience in Children and Families
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	Ability to supervise and develop student placements and 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
KNOWLEDGE	Good Working knowledge of The Children's Act 1989, Adoption Act 1976, Adoption Regulations, 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 the Child Protection System Good understanding of Quality Protects – Transforming Children's Services, Working Together Good working knowledge of family relationships Good understanding of Family Court Proceedings Good working knowledge of Assessment Framework Understanding/knowledge of fostering, adoption and disability issues Good understanding of attachment theory

PERSONAL QUALITIES	<p>Willingness to attend regular training opportunities</p> <p>Emotionally resilient</p> <p>Professional credibility</p> <p>Flexibility</p> <p>Commitment to equal opportunities</p> <p>Ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day</p>
COMPETENCIES	<p>Competencies are set within the “Kent Social Services Children and Families – Training Framework – Child Care Post Qualification Training Programme April 2000”</p>
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> <p>(If this document is being used for recruitment purposes, examples of Behaviours which support the Kent Values will need to be demonstrated within the context of this post)</p>