

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Social Worker - Supporting Independence*

Directorate:	Adult Social Care and Health
Unit/Section:	Older People and Physical Disability
Grade:	KR 9
Responsible to:	Senior Practitioner - Supporting Independence

Purpose of the Job:

Within the local social care and health systems, work with clients and their support networks, including service providers to ensure support is appropriately coordinated and communication is effective and actions between agencies and other parties. Work closely with service providers and other agencies to support clients working towards their independence and wellbeing goals and monitor, review and modify client's care and support plans accordingly. Use a strengths based approach to maximise strengths identified through assessment to enable people to meet desired outcomes and needs and maintain wellbeing.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. Carry out appropriate and proportionate assessments, which consider strengths and capabilities and what support might be available from the person's wider network.
2. Work with individuals to develop care and support plans that ensure choice and control over support arrangements and which evidence that all interventions promote wellbeing, safety, independence and autonomy.
3. Provide a holistic approach to interventions, working with the whole person, their family or system, building relationships and networks, enabling individuals, their families and carers to achieve sustainable change and agreed outcomes.
4. Manage care and support to clients in partnership with their service provider and local health and social care network. Monitor, review and modify care and support plans with clients, and work with service providers to support clients in working towards their goals and outcomes to optimise their independence and wellbeing.
5. Work closely with service providers to conduct reviews, including annual statutory reviews, of clients' care and support plans to ensure the level of service is appropriate to meet their assessed eligible needs and monitor to address any changing needs within the appropriate authorization thresholds. Identify the appropriate specialist expertise that may be required to deliver the review e.g. Occupational Therapist, and work in partnership with the service provider throughout the process.
6. Manage crisis intervention to meet immediate requirements and reduce risk, using positive risk assessment policy and tools.
7. Support and, participate in, joint and integrated working with a range of teams,

partner organisations and other parties to offer a broad range of options to clients and carers. Develop support arrangements, supporting clients and their carers to build and maintain community links and optimise independence and wellbeing. Participate in multi-disciplinary meetings with partners to support complex needs.

8. Develop and maintain an extensive knowledge of available resources to support clients and their carers in the commissioning of ongoing services. Through a range of interventions, direct management and signposting, support clients to access the voluntary sector, information, advice and advocacy.
9. Co-ordinate specialist interventions with other professionals to ensure that care and support is delivered in a person-centred and timely manner. Identify and refer any concerns to the relevant team to ensure clients are fully supported as required.
10. Work closely with providers, quality improvement and safeguarding teams and the Strategic Commissioning division to monitor, review and improve service delivery and ensure quality and outcome improvements are made where required. Lead and contribute to a range of service related projects as they arise.
11. Work collaboratively with service providers to support the planning and delivery of training for supporting independence teams and the service provider workforce. Offer positive peer challenge and professional support to develop practice and upskill the workforce, including showing techniques.
12. Support the maintenance of good practice standards and enable continued development of professional skills that meet service requirements. Support the 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.
13. 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.
14. Support senior managers when responding to emergency planning issues and ensuring there are business continuity arrangements in place at all times.
15. Demonstrate social work values and ethics to work effectively with people and families to make the most of their emotional and practical assets as well as accessing the care and support they need.
16. Research, demonstrate and apply the relevant theories and methods of social work practice to complex situations, to help support people to achieve identified outcomes. Use evidence and value based practice to inform complex analysis, recommendations and decisions needed to support, empower and protect clients. Demonstrate understanding of the dynamics between theory, research, evidence and expertise in the application of professional judgement in decision making.
17. Apply the social work model within a multi-professional working environment actively ensuring a collaborative approach is taken to linking and co-ordination of interventions and input required as part of a multi-agency approach. Support community capacity building within neighbourhoods, families and local areas promoting and utilising the strengths of networks, private and voluntary sector and local agencies such as police, housing, health and education.

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 - Supporting Independence*

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	<p>Relevant degree, diploma or related professional qualification in Social Work. Up to date registration with Social Work England.</p> <p>Competent to work at the Newly Qualified Social Worker or Social Worker level of the Professional Capability Framework for Social Work</p>
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in Adult Social Services, Health related agencies or related private or voluntary organisation.• Completion of an assessed student placement and portfolio of evidence to support this and evidence of individual performance during practice placement where appropriate; or• Completion of an assessed first year of practice (ASYE) and portfolio of evidence to support this• Knowledge of relevant legislation and policy frameworks• Evidence of knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices and having undertaken Mental Capacity Act training, or for NQSWs willingness to undertake the relevant training
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with service users, colleagues and partner agencies.• Ability to prioritise and to work effectively on own initiative as well as part of a team.• Able to effectively manage conflict• Effective written and IT skills for report and assessment writing and communication.• Ability and commitment to support the Directorate's Equality and Diversity Policy Statement which is an integral part of the Directorate's service deliver and relationship with the client to respect people as individuals regardless of age, ethnic origin, cultural values, disability, gender, sexual orientation or religion.• Ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day in accordance with the requirements of the job and extended access hours working.

KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of adult social work practice, policies, procedures and protocols. • Knowledge of the relevant legislation and theories underpinning the provision of services to the relevant client group. • Understanding of social work theories and the dynamic between theory, research, evidence and expertise in the use of professional judgement and decision making • Good working knowledge of directorate and corporate policies, procedures and practice • Good understanding of integrated and joint working with partner agencies
BEHAVIOURS AND KENT VALUES	<p>Kent Values:</p> <p>Open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money thinking • Innovative thinking • Risk managers • Managing expectations • Political awareness of unpopular decisions • Honesty/bravery • Solutions focussed <p>Invite contribution and challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-production • Collaborative • Competition • Working together • Information Sharer • Integrated thinkers <p>Accountable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionalism • Seeking constant improvement • Quick response in relation to delivery • Acting as a commercial business • Innovator • Capacity builder • Creative • Resilient