| Role Structure | Role Details |
| --- | --- |
| Directorate: | Children & Young People |
| Grade: | HC09 |
| Location: | Hereford |
| Responsible to: | Team Manager |

# Job Description

# Senior Practitioner

**Children & Young People**

**In Care**

## Main purpose of the role

The main role of the job is to contribute to the safeguarding and support for children and their families who are in need of services. It includes mentoring and role modelling to less experienced social work staff and supporting the strong professional knowledge and practice base of work undertaken

| Key Duties and Responsibilities | Frequency of Task |
| --- | --- |
| * Manage a caseload of complex cases to ensure resources are utilised effectively | * Daily |
| * Maintain continual professional development in social work practice whilst modelling this to other members of staff and promoting a strong learning culture | * Daily |
| * Use professional skills and experience to provide case reflection and practice management to team members to ensure compliance with national and departmental policies, procedures and quality standards | * Daily |
| * Support team members to further their professional knowledge and development to improve the overall quality of practice | * Daily |
| * Attend court, where appropriate, to assist the team in ensuring that key professional input and expertise is provided to high profile and sensitive cases | * Daily |
| * Role model best practice | * Daily |
| * 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 | * Daily |
| * To supervise social work students on placement or non-social work staff within the team | * Daily |
| * To carry a workload which predominantly consists of highly complex cases | * Daily |
| * To undertake specialist roles within the team or area as required | * Daily |
| * To develop and keep up to date with specialist areas of knowledge and practice as required, and to make this knowledge/expertise available to the team, area or division as appropriate | * Regularly |
| * To contribute to the professional development of team members, * by undertaking particular responsibilities with regard to less experienced staff * by advising other staff on particular areas of case management * by co-working cases to support development * supporting chairing of meeting * attendance at court * by providing quality assurance of assessments, plans and statements | * Daily |
| * To provide quality assurance of assessments, plans and statements | * Regularly |
| * To represent the division and/or the department on non-case-related issues | * Regularly |
| * Plan, implement and evaluate the outcomes of social work interventions with children and young people | * Daily |
| * Develop effective working partnerships with those with parental responsibility, carers and significant others in the life of the child or young person | * Daily |
| * Fulfil responsibilities in accordance with the statutory and relevant Directorate, procedures and guidance | * Daily |
| * Act as the practice educator for students on placements, supporting their study and opportunities for them to develop their practice in a safe and supported environment | * Regularly |
| * Provide role modelling, coaching and mentoring to contribute to the following outcomes: | * Daily |
| * Contribute to operational development of the service that supports the whole system approach to integrated practice | * Daily |
| * Promote the voice of the child and ensure all children and young people’s plans are robust, SMART and are in a language that the children and their families will understand | * Daily |
| * Ensure recording practices are safe and secure and routinely monitored | * Daily |
| * Ensure that planning of service and team development takes account of assessed need and results of regulatory inspections, where relevant | * Monthly |
| * Work in partnership with other agencies | * Daily |
| * Ensure children, young people and their families are routinely involved in evaluating and developing services to meet their needs | * Frequently |
| * Comply with relevant legislation and guidance to ensure delivery of services that are high performing against national standards to include working to timescales identified in the PLO | * Daily |
| * Contribute to the induction of all new staff in consultation with managers and the workforce support officer | * Frequently |
| * To assist the team manager in identifying issues of performance with staff in line with corporate policy and procedures | * Frequently |
| * To work in a way that promotes equality and diversity issues | * Daily |
| * To undertake tasks as identified in the Team and Service plan and contribute to the improved delivery of services for children | * Daily |

**Person Specification**

| **Requirements** | **Essential or Desirable** | **Identified by**  **A – Application I – Interview** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualifications and Training** | | |
| * A recognised social work qualification and registered as a social worker with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) | Essential | A, I |
| * Evidence of continual professional development e.g. Post Qualifying Award or portfolio of CPD evidence | Essential | A, I |
| * Practice Educator Stage 1 | Desirable | A, I |
| **Experience & Knowledge** | | |
| * Substantial diverse experience working with children and families | Essential | A, I |
| * Experience of mentoring others | Essential | A, I |
| * Experience of taking a lead on an area of practice | Essential | A, I |
| * Experience of providing consultation, mentoring and developing qualified staff | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to function at a high level of autonomy including representation of the service at formal meetings or in court | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to organise and prioritise a complex workload and managing conflicting demands and timescales | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to use research to develop and inform practice | Essential | A, I |
| * Demonstrable ability to work effectively within a multi-disciplinary setting | Essential | A, I |
| * Up to date and working knowledge of relevant legislation | Essential | A, I |
| * Working knowledge of procedures relating to Looked After Children, Children in Need and Children in Need of Protection | Essential | A, I |
| * Expertise and understanding of child development and attachment theory | Essential | A, I |
| * Good understanding of relevant Government policy | Essential | A, I |
| **Skills and Abilities** | | |
| * Ability to work within an Equal Opportunities, non-discriminatory framework | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to undertake high quality assessments of need and risk | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to assess effectively the development needs of social work staff | Essential | A, I |
| * Support the development of appropriate training | Essential | A, I |
| * Act as a mentor and demonstrate teaching skills | Essential | A, I |
| * Effective communication, negotiating and interpersonal skills | Essential | A, I |
| * Contribute to monitoring of team functioning and effectiveness | Essential | A, I |
| * Identify, attain and maintain high levels of practice | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to work to HCPC code of conduct | Essential | A, I |
| * Work flexibly and in an innovative way | Essential | A, I |
| * Ability to use ICT effectively | Essential | A, I |
| * Demonstrate solution-focussed thinging and problem solving skills | Essential | A, I |
| **Other Factors** | | |
| * Access to own transport in order to travel freely in and out of the county | Essential | A, I |
| * Willingness to work flexible hours to meet the needs of the service | Essential | A, I |
| * An enhanced DBS is required | Essential | A, I |

All council staff have a duty to promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults with care and support needs at risk of abuse and neglect who cannot take steps to protect themselves. Ensuring you attend mandated safeguarding children and safeguarding adults training to enable you to recognise the concerning behavior, know how to talk about it, and consent/duty to share information effectively. You will also learn about the legalities and procedures the social care staff can take.

## Our Values and Behaviours

The council’s THRIVE core values are our guiding principles and beliefs that shape our culture and behaviour within the council. ​They help us to achieve our Council Plan vision “do our best for Herefordshire” acting as our DNA and the “way that we do things around here”. We expect all colleagues to act as a role model by living our values and setting an example for others. ​Our values strive to promote a thriving workforce by fostering a culture of trust, being honest and responsible, inclusive, valuing people and resources and leading with empathy.

**Trust -** Developing and maintaining relationships based on a culture of transparency and open communication. Supported by integrity and the confidence that you are reliable and fulfil commitments.

**Honesty -** Demonstrating truthfulness, integrity, and transparency in all communications, decisions, and relationships. Being trustworthy, reliable, and accountable for your actions. Acting with sincerity and fairness, even in challenging situations.

**Responsibility -** Taking ownership of individual and collective actions, decisions, and delivering on commitments. Being reliable, fulfilling obligations and being accountable for outcomes and results. Proactively contributing to the achievement of your own, the team and council goals.

**Inclusivity -** Embracing diversity, equity and inclusion by recognising and valuing the unique perspectives, backgrounds and experiences of our staff, customers and residents. Creating an environment where every individual is valued, respected and can belong.

**Value -** Upholding high standards, ethics and integrity to guide our actions and decisions. Demonstrating commitment to creating and delivering value in our work by recognising and appreciating each other, our resources, processes, customers, community and environment.

**Empathy -** Demonstrating a genuine and caring understanding of others' feelings, perspectives, and experiences. Listening attentively, acting with compassion, supporting with respect and kindness and considering the impact of our actions on others.