



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Route 1 Advocate		
Directorate	Children's and Families		
Reporting to	Route 1 Manager		
Grade	12		
Evaluation ref:	AG0735	Job Family ref:	
Role Purpose			
<p>You will be responsible for supporting and advising a group of volunteer advocates and independent visitors who represent the voice of children who have support from a social worker. Route1 is a service based around children's rights and you will be expected to act as an advocate and challenge where you do not see the child's voice at the centre of practice. You will be part of a team, alongside 6 other staff members and a manager. Within your team, you will be expected to deliver training modules to potential volunteers which will support and prepare them for working with children in our community.</p>			
Accountabilities			
<p>Manage, support and advise a group of volunteer advocates and independent visitors for children looked after. Act as an advocate particularly where issues are challenging or complex. As an advocate or advocate's representative, attend child protection and safeguarding meetings, review meetings for children looked after as well as meetings and discussions where advocacy and independent visitor roles are expected. Route1 Advocacy is a challenge service based in children's rights. The service and its advocates are expected to challenge where the child's voice is not seen as being at the centre of best practice.</p> <p>Keep accurate and timely records and to provide information, written assessments, reports and statements when required.</p> <p>Ensure the provision of high-quality support and information to volunteers in their interactions with professionals from a range of agencies, children and families and to show tact and diplomacy at all times.</p> <p>Build on existing knowledge and practice with research and training to develop a knowledge base and skills related to children's rights, advocacy and the needs of vulnerable young people. Take part in and evaluate outcomes.</p> <p>For specialist advocacy work, will undertake training to develop skills and expertise in relation to aspects of the work.</p> <p>Deliver services in accordance with National Standards for advocacy, National Standards for Supporting Volunteers and National Standards for Independent Visitors. Evaluate service delivery and outcomes.</p>			



JOB DESCRIPTION

Undertake the training and assessment of volunteers.

Use IT systems, data bases and spreadsheets, etc.

Understand, uphold and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others as well as supporting organisational values generally. Equality and Diversity practice covers interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
Knowledge of and interest in the principles underlying voluntary work.	x	
An interest and concern for the needs of young people and their families.	x	
Experience		
Experience working with young people in either a youth work, teaching or social care field.	x	
Experience in working with families and the general public.	x	
Experienced IT user and ability to use databases and Microsoft Excel.	x	
Experience of working with volunteers.		x
Experience of organising and leading meetings.		x
Experience working with children who have disabilities.		x



JOB DESCRIPTION

Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
Qualification in Social Care, Teaching, Youth Work or Management.		x
Skills		
Ability to build strong and support relationships with professionals and volunteers.	x	
Confidence in formal and informal settings.	x	
Pro-active approach.	x	
Ability to manage sensitive issues with respect and diplomacy.	x	
Good time management and organisation skills.	x	
Ability to work flexible hours when required, including weekends and evenings.	x	
Ability to travel throughout the County.	x	
Ability to speak fluent English.	x	
Social media skills.		x
Working Conditions		
Dimensions of the role		



Working Arrangements

Somerset Council's Dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.

Corporate Accountabilities

Understand, uphold, and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: