

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Advanced Practitioner Social Worker - EDT		
Directorate	Children & Family Services		
Reporting to	Service Manager - EDT		
Grade	9		
Evaluation ref:	AG1180	Job ref:	Family
Role purpose			
<p>The responsibility of the Children's Services function is to promote and ensure the safety, well-being and learning of children and young people. Within the Service, Children and Young People's Social Care Teams provide services to Children in Need, children subject to Child Protection Plans, Children Looked After and Care Leavers. These roles operate in close collaboration with multi-agency partnerships including in-house prevention and criminal justice services.</p> <p>Advanced Practitioner Social Workers in the Emergency Duty Team will work in accordance with professional standards (as set by Social Work England). During evenings, at night, weekends and on public holidays the service provided is designed to meet the statutory responsibilities of childcare legislation, to intervene effectively in cases of escalation and to ensure children are made and then kept safe in crisis situations.</p> <p>The Advanced Practitioner Social Worker on duty will be available to deal with diverse and frequently complex situations which require an immediate response and are in the nature of an emergency or have an element of urgent distress. Strong assessment skills, prioritisation of needs, risks and tasks and an ability to think clearly and creatively are critical skills.</p>			
Responsibilities			
<p>Will undertake the following list of duties and responsibilities (which is not exhaustive) and act at all times as a beacon of professional good practice and as the face of Childrens Social Care when day services are not available: -</p> <p>Act as duty Advanced Practitioner Social Worker to enable members of the public and other agencies to consult on complex child needs or refer potential safeguarding or child protection situations to the Department outside normal office hours.</p> <p>Act on behalf of other agencies including the Youth Offending Service, Somerset Partnership Foundation Trust, other local authority Social Care Departments, care providers, police colleagues and the local District Council Homelessness services to achieve best outcomes for children in the given time frame.</p> <p>Effectively evaluate/triage all incoming referrals to form a professional assessment which requires a response outside normal office hours, and which can be deferred</p>			

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until the next working day, and to act appropriately and professionally upon those referrals which need a 'here and now' response.

Triage and analyse referrals which may include requests to accommodate children, child protection issues, foster placement breakdowns, requests for appropriate adult services under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act for juveniles and vulnerable adults or requests for pre-release bail/release under investigation discussions and decisions for local police. On each occasion provide professional advice and guidance and be in a position to influence outcomes through strong negotiation.

Offer advice and guidance and share information as appropriate with members of the public, care providers and other agencies to stabilise emergent needs and risks and promote child safety and welfare until day services can re-engage.

Provide critical information, actions taken and next steps advice and guidance to day service staff on referrals, action and outcomes, including use of strategy meetings.

Effectively use the Senior Management On Call rota to update on call senior managers of potentially serious situations or cases where there may be a degree of public interest, including cases of sudden death.

Be a point of reference for prevention service staff working out of hours, including when asking for prevention service assistance in providing family support overnight.

When demand is shown and capacity allows, move to support day services at the Family Front Door or in locality social care teams to ensure children and families receive the best service possible in Somerset.

Impact

Contacts & Relationships

There are links with other Out of Hours services, which include local and national Police, various health services (GPs, Psychiatric Services, General Hospitals, Nursing Services, Ambulance Service), Care Providers/Agencies, Benefits Agency, Organisations for homelessness and Council Housing Departments, Women's Refuges and domestic abuse support services, Samaritans, Childline, Council out of hours services (Piper lifeline, housing maintenance, dog wardens etc), Prevention Services.

The contacts will involve the giving and receiving of information, offering advice, purchasing services, arranging transport, convening strategy discussions, arranging joint investigations, requesting action, monitoring developing situations. Contacts will involve negotiation, advocacy, inter-agency diplomacy and problem resolution.

Within the Department there are frequent contacts with residential staff and foster carers to discuss placement difficulties, with the day services to receive information and referrals and to advise them of developments and outcomes. Team members

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attend various daytime meetings and liaise on a regular basis with area teams and other agencies. At times it is necessary to contact senior management out of hours to advise them of potentially serious situations or cases where there may be a degree of public interest.

Must work with a high degree of autonomy and show sound and well-reasoned decision making at all times, with a robust understand of thresholds and where the need for an immediate strategy meeting or other partnership activity is required.

Resources

The EDT operates between 16.30hrs and 08.30hrs Monday to Thursday, from 16.00hrs on Friday to 08.30hrs on Monday and on Bank Holidays. The team is the Service's first point of contact with the public and other agencies for these times. There is one Social Worker and one Senior Social Work Assistant on duty up until 1am. The Social Worker then completes the remainder of the shift on their own.

The Team covers the geographic area of Somerset Council offering a service to all the Children's Services user groups and also follows children and families into adjacent authorities when the situation has commenced in Somerset, e.g. children and family members taken to Bath RUH or Bath Police custody.

Will represent the Service out of hours and has authority to take decisions as appropriate on behalf of the Service but would be expected to consult in cases of very special difficulty or that may have a significantly high profile.

There is authority to: -

Purchase packages of care and support for children and their families once authorisation is given from the senior on call manager.

Fund temporary accommodation for homeless families.

Initiate and carry out child protection investigations if required following convening a strategy discussion.

Accommodate children into foster placements or residential care, with the pre-authorisation of a senior manager.

Any other action professionally indicated and within the Department's remit, to deal with an emergency or urgent distress.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable	
Knowledge			

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Knowledge and understanding of Social Care practice as defined by Social Work England Guidelines, appropriate legislation and issues relevant to client group.	E		
Understanding of social care resources and provision available beyond statutory agencies.		D	
Awareness of government guidance and legislative changes across broad range of Social Service issues.		D	
Experience			
Relevant multi-disciplinary Social Care experience within multi-disciplinary team - relevant to needs of post.	E		
Evidence of partnership working with other agencies including Social Care Services, Health Services, Voluntary Agencies and/or Education.	E		
Demonstrate ability to interpret and use current legislation and guidance to protect and/or advance people's rights and entitlements.	E		
Supervisory experience.		D	
A variety of experiences working with relevant client groups.		D	
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications			
Possession of recognised Social Care Qualification – Degree in Social Work, DipSW, CQSW, CSS or equivalent.	E		
Registration with Social Work England.	E		
PEPS Stage 1 (or experience of supervising and mentoring others).	E		
Studying or willingness to participate in PQ study.		D	
PEPS Stage 2		D	
Skills			
IT skills to enable effective input, manipulation and retrieval of data and information.	E		
Ability to speak fluent English as stated in Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016).	E		
Working Conditions			
The EDT operates between 16.30hrs and 08.30hrs Monday to Thursday, from 16.00hrs on Friday to 08.30hrs on Monday and on Bank Holidays			

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Working Arrangements

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

Corporate Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.
- Deliver 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, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that 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: