

Job Profile comprising Job Description and Person Specification

Job Description

Job Title: Social Worker/ Senior Social Worker	Grade: SO2 – PO3
Section: Children's Specialist Services	Directorate: Children's Services Department
Responsible to: Team Manager / Assistant Team Manager	Responsible for: N/A
Post Number/s: TBC	Last Review Date: November 2024

Working for the Richmond & Wandsworth Better Service Partnership

We're Richmond & Wandsworth Better Service Partnership, the shared public service team for Richmond and Wandsworth Councils. Like any local authority, our role is to deliver the agenda of our elected members on behalf of the people who live and work in our part of the world. We deliver key services to our communities including social care, public health, children's services, housing and regeneration and environmental and community services.

Our joint workforce creates efficiency and resilience by bringing more creativity to the way we work, more objectivity and adaptability too, helping us deliver better services for all our residents.

We're here to help our communities thrive in a changing world, and to be there for the people who need us most we believe we need to keep adapting. That's why, at Richmond & Wandsworth Better Service Partnership, you'll be at the forefront of innovation in local government, and we'll invest in you and offer you opportunities to grow in a way only our unique organisation can.

Job Purpose

Social workers possess and practice the full range of social work values, knowledge and skills required to improve the lives of children in need (CIN) and their families. They must be registered to practice with the General Social Care Council under the terms of the code of conduct for social workers.

Social workers demonstrate competence and confidence in assessment, planning, implementation and review (APIR) in a wide range of CIN cases, including child protection, care proceedings and looked after children cases. They work collaboratively with other professionals, co-ordinating the team around the child, in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to safeguarding children and young people.

Social workers have the organisational skills to hold an average caseload of 15 CIN cases, depending on the nature of those cases, along with a number of other duties. They act as a link professional, providing advice and consultancy to early years centres, schools and other settings, in line with Every Child Matters: Agenda for Change.

Social workers possess the technical skills to maximise the benefit of the Council electronic client recording/reporting tool, maintaining accurate, up-to-date child records in compliance with the Integrated Children's System.

Social workers are committed to continuously improving practice by developing their knowledge and skills through post qualifying training. They participate in high quality supervision that achieves an appropriate balance between reflective practice and accountability for performance/standards. They take part in rigorous self evaluation through annual appraisal (PrP review) and half year reviews.

This job description provides the core job description for all children's social workers. Specialisms are reflected in appropriate addendums.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

- Act as the lead professional in statutory cases that require a qualified social worker, including child protection, care proceedings and looked after children cases;
- Undertake the full range of social work tasks with children in need and their families; assessment, planning, implementation and review (APIR);
- Bring together and co-ordinate the team around the child to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to APIR and safeguarding;
- Establish and develop collaborative working with allied health and social care practitioners from children's and adults' services;
- Promote and model effective working arrangements with schools, children's centres and other settings;
- Develop a good understanding of evidence based practice and integrate models of best practice into day to day service delivery;

- Participate positively in professional supervision and annual appraisal (PrP) review, taking personal responsibility for the quality of practice;
- Take part in case/practice audits and contribute to peer audit arrangements as required;
- Build professional credibility within the multi-professional partnership by achieving practice standards and meeting performance targets consistently; providing accredited practice teaching as required;
- Actively contribute to team working, supporting colleagues, covering for colleagues in their absence and taking part in team meetings and development events;
- Contribute to the development and delivery of the Team Improvement Plan;
- Understand and integrate into practice the key policies of the Council in relation to social care with children and families, especially multi-disciplinary working, integration and whole family approaches;
- Develop professional expertise in at least one of the key risk factors affecting the welfare of children; parental alcohol/substance misuse; parental mental health problems; domestic abuse; learning difficulties; and homelessness;
- Develop an excellent knowledge base of and collaborative working with local preventative and targeted family support services, particularly those provided by the voluntary and community sector;
- Demonstrate a high level of competence and confidence in the use of the Council electronic case recording/reporting tool, maintaining accurate and up-to-date child records in compliance with the Integrated Children's System;
- Promote and demonstrate the meaningful participation of children, young people and parents/carers in the process of APIR, in all aspects of decision making and in shaping service delivery;
- Understand, promote and integrate into practice Council policies in relation to valuing diversity and promoting equalities;
- Consider and put forward ideas for improving the efficiency and the effectiveness of Council services to children and families;
- Contribute to the review of Council policies and procedures, particularly guidance and protocols for social workers;

- Enhance and promote the reputation of the Council as a provider of high quality services to children and families.

Generic Duties and Responsibilities

- To contribute to the continuous improvement of the services of Richmond & Wandsworth Better Service Partnerships.
- To comply with relevant Codes of Practice, including the Code of Conduct and policies concerning data protection and health and safety.
- To adhere to security controls and requirements as mandated by Richmond & Wandsworth procedures and local risk assessments to maintain confidentiality, integrity, availability and legal compliance of information and systems
- To promote equality, diversity, and inclusion, maintaining an awareness of the equality and diversity protocol/policy and working to create and maintain a safe, supportive and welcoming environment where all people are treated with dignity and their identity and culture are valued and respected.
- To understand both Councils' duties and responsibilities for safeguarding children, young people and adults as they apply to the roles within the Councils.
- The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the duties the post holder will carry out. Other reasonable duties commensurate with the level of the post, including supporting emergency and priority situations, will form part of the role.

Person Specification

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Our Values

THINK BIGGER

EMBRACE DIFFERENCE

CONNECT BETTER

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

PUT PEOPLE FIRST

Our Values are embedded across the Richmond and Wandsworth Better Service Partnership and throughout all roles and responsibilities at all levels of the organisation. Please [familiarise yourself with our values](#) as they are an integral part of our recruitment and selection process.

Person Specification Requirements			Assessed by A/I/T/C (see below for explanation)
Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed
1. Knowledge and understanding of the needs of children and young people; the ability to work effectively with children and their parents/carers and involve them in decision making.	X		A & I

2. Applied knowledge of relevant legislation, guidance and best practice in safeguarding children, including the statutory duties of the Local Authority in ensuring the protection of children.	X		A & I
3. Strong team working skills to give and gain the support of team colleagues.	X		A & I
4. A good understanding of prejudice and discrimination and the need for a Council policy on equal opportunities in service provision and a strong commitment to anti-discriminatory practice.	X		A & I
Experience	Essential	Desirable	Assessed
5. Experience of working together with others, across voluntary and statutory agencies, providing a social work service to children in need and their families, gained in statutory settings.	X		A & I
6. Ability to use supervision and appraisals to maximise personal effectiveness and for professional development.	X		A & I
7. Ability to work flexible hours as required to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.	X		A & I
Skills	Essential	Desirable	Assessed
8. Effective oral and written communication skills, including formal report writing.	X		A & I
9. Applied skills in a range of social work approaches and methods especially assessment, planning, implementation and review, facilitating the team around the child, aimed at improving outcomes and the life chances of vulnerable children.	X		A & I
10. Ability to carry out assessments, including risk assessments, collecting and analysing all relevant information and following current guidance on the assessment of children in need and their families.	X		A & I
11. Ability to organise and prioritise own workload and to work under pressure, maintaining quality standards and meeting deadlines.	X		A & I
12. Ability to maintain accurate and up to date children's case records in compliance with Council procedures.	X		A & I

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable	Assessed
13. Diploma in Social Work, CQSW, CSS, Bachelors or Masters Degree in Social Work or other professional social work qualification recognised by the GSCC for the purposes of registration in the UK.	X		A & C
14. Social Work England Membership.	X		A & C

A – Application form / CV

I – Interview

T – Test

C - Certificate