

Job Profile comprising Job Description and Person Specification

Job Description

Job Title: Supervising Social Worker/Senior Social Worker	Grade: SO2-PO3
Section: Fostering Service	Directorate: Children's Services Department
Responsible to following manager: Team Manager	Responsible for following staff: N/A
Post Number/s:	Last review date:

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), children looked after (CLA) and their families. Social workers in the Fostering and Kinship/Post Permanence service can competently assess potential mainstream, family link and Reg 24 (kinship) foster carers and Special Guardians during care proceedings; as well as offer responsive support and supervision to approved mainstream, Family Link and Connected Person foster carers, and Special Guardians. They must be registered to practice with Social Work England.

Social workers demonstrate competence and confidence in assessment, planning, implementation and review (APIR) in a wide range of scenarios, including child protection, care proceedings and with children looked after. 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. They provide advice to the professional network, in line with Fostering Regulation and Standards.

Social workers have the organisational skills to hold an average caseload of 15 foster carers or 5 assessments or post permanence support to Special Guardians or any combination of these, depending on the nature of those cases, along with a number of other duties.

Social workers possess the technical skills to maximise the benefit of the Council's 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 related to fostering are included here.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

- Act as the lead professional in statutory cases that require a qualified social worker;
- Undertake the full range of social work tasks relating to the recruitment, assessment, and approval of foster carers, including mainstream, family link and Reg 24/Connected Persons foster carers and Special Guardians.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues in social work teams across Children's Services, partner agencies including the agency's legal department, Medical Advisor and fostering panel, as well as external agencies and courts involved in care planning, placement and review of children with connected persons or mainstream foster carers.
- In collaboration with colleagues in Children's services and external agencies, coordinate the statutory checks of potential foster carers, Special Guardians and their household members to ensure their approval in compliance with the Fostering Services Regulations and within court directed timescales.
- Undertake the full range of social work tasks involved in maintaining and reviewing the approval of foster carers, to ensure they remain fit to foster and their approval terms remain relevant.
- Provide effective, responsive support and reflective supervision to approved and Reg 24 foster carers within statutory timescales.
- Promote foster carers' continuous development through collaboratively completing and reviewing their Personal Development Plans, coordinating mandatory and relevant fostering training and learning opportunities.
- Present Skills to Foster preparation training and facilitate foster carer and Special Guardian support groups.
- Monitor and ensure a consistent standard of care is provided to children placed with in-house carers which surpasses the Nation Minimum Standard of care.
- Monitor the safer care practice of foster carers that ensure children in their care are safeguarded, and work in partnership with foster carers, colleagues, children's social workers, LADO and partner agencies to address and investigate any safeguarding concerns.

- In collaboration with partner agencies, coordinate and provide post-permanence support to Special Guardians including access to the Adoption Fund.
- 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 Partnership.
- To comply with relevant Codes of Practice, including the Code of Conduct and policies concerning data protection, handling complaints and health and safety.
- To adhere to security controls and requirements as mandated by Richmond and 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.

Additional Information

Participate in the Fostering Service's out of hours duty rota that offers support and advice to foster carers.

The duties as outlined in this job profile are not exhaustive and may change from time to time due to the changing nature of the working environment. You are expected to carry out all appropriate tasks necessary to meet the needs of the services or as may be requested by your line manager

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 Richmond & 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, their parents, and foster carers 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, provision of foster placements and assessment of foster carers and special guardians.	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