

Job Description

Children's Social Worker - Housing (Proficient)

Job functions

- *Provide reliable effective social work help and intervention to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need so that children maintain a reasonable standard of health and development, receive reasonable parenting, and have a sense of permanence. Where a child is disabled take action to minimise the effect of their disabilities so they have the opportunity to lead lives as normal a life as possible.*
- *Identify consistently in a timely way where children are unable to live at home, take action to secure permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. Where children are looked after address their needs in accordance with their care plan or pathway plan, so that they make progress and have every opportunity to fulfil their potential as adults.*
- *Show consistent effective child centred practice with children at the centre of professional assessment, planning, intervention and review activity, and their views and wishes (appropriate to their age and understanding) are sought and used to understand the child's world and shape the level of intervention and type of help offered.*
- *Provide effective professional leadership so that professionals work together to meet the needs of children in need, including those with a child protection plan, privately fostered children, and looked after children and care leavers.*
- *Work with parents / carers to strengthen protective factors and reduce risks to the child's welfare, where seeking to establishing rapport and trust as a basis for parents changing their behaviour so that the child receives safe reasonable parenting, or where parental cooperation is not forthcoming and there is no other way of safeguarding the child, pursue alternative arrangements for the child's upbringing.*
- *Work with foster carers, special guardians, prospective adopters and other people who are looking after someone else's children, so that children's needs are met and that they are able to live as normal a life as possible, understand their journey to their placement, are making good progress in terms of their health, development and education, and are prepared for their transition to adult life.*

Key duties

- An understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Children's and Housing services for young people experiencing homelessness, in accordance with statutory duties and legal requirements.
- Adherence to our joint protocols which set out the mutually agreed vision, objectives, systems and processes to ensure effective action to prevent youth homelessness.
- Providing an integrated service for young people (aged 16/17 and 18+ care leavers) presenting as homeless to enable a joint approach to timely assessments, homelessness prevention support and access to accommodation which meets their needs.
- To lead on the co-ordinated multi-agency planning and support, focussed around the young person and their family, ensuring that they do not have to repeat their stories or risk being passed between services/authorities.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Providing young people and their families access to information directly from both Children's and Housing services regarding the support and, if necessary, accommodation options that may be available both now and in the future.
- Contribute to (integrated) monitoring arrangements to provide management information regarding outcomes for young people including through reconciliation with parents or carers.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with other professionals within a multi-disciplinary setting to achieve the best outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness.
- Receive and share information about children and their families in accordance with agreed policies, protocols and procedures, and adhere to the Data Protection Act principles
- *Carry out to a good standard assessment, planning, review and other case management activity in accordance with legal, regulatory and professional practice standards. This includes statutory guidance and regulations relating to assessment and case management, safeguarding children, disabled children, looked after children, fostering, adoption and private fostering.*
- *Consistently show sound professional judgements about children's needs, parenting capacity the child's wider family, how far community or environmental factors impact on the child's welfare, and on the risk and protective factors in the child's life. Use these judgements as a basis for effective actions to meet assessed needs taking account of the best use of resources and budgets allocated.*
- *Co-ordinate, support and challenge professionals to work effectively together and, and evaluate the impact of help that has been provided in terms of the child's well-being and life chances.*
- *Prepare and present with minimal direction evidence and reports to Panels and Courts in order to secure the decisions that will enable the child to have a safe and secure childhood.*
- *Develop specialist knowledge and use this to improve effectiveness of practice within the team.*
- *Promote in own practice, within the team and service group the participation of children, young people and their families in developing the service provided by the team and service group.*
- *Engage positively with and contribute to workforce development activity across the service, and contribute to the development of our learning and improving organisation.*
- *Demonstrate effective practice in keeping children, their families and other professionals informed about the involvement of children's social care and progress of cases.*
- *Promote the use of independent advocacy for children and young people, and contribute to evaluation of independent advocacy.*
- *Make sound recommendations based on evidence based analysis on the appropriate level of intervention in a family's life, including initiating child protection processes, and the securing the provision of help under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989.*
- *Carry out to a good standard actions under Part 5 of the Children Act 1989 concerning the protection of children, including co-ordinating and contributing to child protection investigations, strategy meetings / discussions, child protection case conferences, making applications to the court and working with the police to ensure immediate protection needs are addressed.*

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- *Demonstrate good practice in taking account of individual people's heritage and needs when assessing, planning, delivering or reviewing services for that individual. This means taking account of an individual's race, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, culture, and disability.*
- *Apply effectively principles of anti-discriminatory practice in identifying and redressing the negative impact of racism, homophobia, discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, disability, class, culture, language or religion.*
- *Maintain case records and related information systems to a good standard.*
- *Take responsibility for using supervision and other opportunities to critically reflect on own practice and actions to improve own performance, and to identify actions that would improve the effectiveness of the team.*
- *Consistently contribute to team and service meetings, and get involved in groups that are focused on improving the quality and effectiveness of the team and service.*
- *Contribute to the learning of others by offering support to less experienced social workers, providing appropriate consultation and advice.*
- *Undertake training and be ready act or act as a Practice Educator for students.*
- *Manage a complex workload independently, able to recognise when to seek support, use supervision and other opportunities to reflect on and improve practice of self and others.*
- *Make recommendations and decisions in line with the scheme of delegation.*
- *Contribute to reducing risks to the health, safety and well-being of staff working in the service by acting in accordance with agreed procedures.*
- *Act in accordance with policies, procedures and guidance relating to information sharing, the use of ICT, and resource management.*
- *Act in accordance with the standards of conduct, performance and ethics set by the regulator for social workers.*
- *Carry out any other duties that are consistent with the role.*