Job Description

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Grade: PO7

Reporting to: Service Leader, Practice Improvement & Development

Job purpose

- Lead on providing advice and consultation to all agencies within the local authority on matters related to safeguarding children ensuring that they play a full role in their inter-agency responsibility.

- Provide consultation, advice and support to staff in the department and elsewhere on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and on matters relating to allegations against staff or volunteers working with children.

- Represent Children's Safeguarding & Social Care at multi-agency meetings relating ensuring staff are aware of their role in ensuring children with whom they work are safeguarded.

- To lead on providing quality assurance and improvement challenge that enables schools, children's social care teams and partner agencies to improve the quality and effectiveness of their practice including direct work with children and young people

- To act as a key player in the planning, coordinating and reviewing the impact of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children including children at risk of significant harm and looked after children.

Responsibilities

- Chair meetings and assure the effectiveness of single and multi-agency meetings (including Allegations against Staff or Volunteers meetings and discussions and child protection conferences.)

- Provide consultation, advice, support and challenge to staff within schools, children's services and the wider partnership on matters relating to the safeguarding of children including children living away from home.

- Carry out the statutory local authority designated officer function in relation to allegations against staff or volunteers working with children.

- Take responsibility for assuring that there is effective follow up of actions agreed at meetings chaired.

- Identify and challenge practitioners and their leaders on individual or case specific performance and areas for thematic improvement across the service.

- Model and promote service standards that secure child centred practice and continuous practice improvement to secure better outcomes for children and young people

- Lead and contribute to audits of practice, evaluate the quality of case audits undertaken and contribute to improving audit and assurance activity across children's social are and partner agencies.

- Carry out case reviews including individual management reviews as part of a Serious Case Review or Domestic Violence Homicide review.

- Promote the development of evidenced-based practice and the use of research to inform practice.

- Contribute to induction, training and staff development activities for schools and other professionals in relation to looked after children, children in need including those with child protection plans.

- Develop and model areas of specialism in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, providing professional leadership and challenge in that area of practice to multi-agency practitioners and their leaders who are working with children's social care.

- Ensure children and young people are aware of and encouraged to use all participation opportunities.

- Ensure that the voices of children and their parents are heard and responded to and their views contribute to the development of the service.

- Ensure that the child or young person's unique heritage including her/his race, ethnicity, religious and cultural background and any disability is taken into account.

- To use information technology and manage the workload ensuring that written records in relation to all areas of work are completed in a timely manner.

- To keep up to date with legislation, regulations, guidance, policies and procedures and advise other staff in relation to these matters.

- To carry out other duties which may be required to promote the effective working of the service and the department.

- Contribute to the development of service standards and quality assurance mechanisms.
- Lead and contribute to audits of practice and carry out case reviews.
- Promote the development of evidenced-based practice and the use of research to inform practice.