

**Job Description**

**Job Title:** Independent Practitioner

**Salary Grade:** Grade 9

**SCP:** 43 - 47

**Job Family:** People Care

**Job Profile:**

**Directorate:** Children’s Social Care

**Job Ref No:** N/A

**Work Environment:** Fostering Team

**Reports to:** Lead Manager Fostering and Adoption

**Number of Reports:** N/A

Your normal place of work will be at within the Fostering Team and Home, but you may be required to work at any Company recognised workplace.

This position requires an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

**Purpose:**

To undertake social work assessments pertaining to the role of Foster Carer, including form F and Reg 24 assessments.

To work in accordance with established policies and procedures of Together for Children and Sunderland Safeguarding Board.

**Key Responsibilities:**

Able to share and obtain information and have dialogue with other professionals and agencies (either in person or over the telephone)

Able to compile and analyse information for assessments and reports and be able to present that information in formal arenas

Provide information and advice to colleagues, Panel Members, Parents, Carers and children in relation to assessments and report compiled in order to ensure full involvement from all participants in decision making and that it is consistent with legislation, statutory regulations and guidance

Exercise customer focus skills including analysis of information, constructive challenge and enablement of participation in assessments and court and panel processes

Ensure practice is of the highest professional standard

Plan and organise own work including reprioritising tasks if necessary, to ensure panel ,court and all statutory deadlines are met.

Make decisions when determining actions to ensure children’s welfare is safeguarded and record these decisions using the appropriate format and systems. To refer appropriate decisions to Team Managers within agreed parameters

Deal with and solve problems on a daily basis which are varied and often complex when undertaking assessments and reports

Undertaking a range of assessments adhering to a contract of visits with prospective applicants and service users. To exercise own discretion and initiative whilst working as an independent practitioner

Maintain throughout all work clear safeguarding focus. To complete the appropriate assessment document within the timescales agreed/required. Effectively responding to any challenges encountered in the assessment process

Deal with deadlines, interruptions and conflicting demands

Provide monitoring and scrutiny to plans and assessments

To contribute to improving systems for recording, planning and service delivery

**Statutory requirements:**

In line with the Together for Children’s Statutory Requirements, all employees should:

Comply with the principles and requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to the management of Together for Children Sunderland’s records and information, and respect the privacy of personal information held by Together for Children Sunderland;

Comply with the principles and requirements of the Freedom in Information Act 2000;

Comply with the Together for Children Sunderland’s information security standards, and requirements for the management and handling of information;

Use information only for authorised purposes.

**Author**: Kathryn McCabe

**Date**: December 2017

**Person Specification**

**Job Title: Independent Practitioner**

**Role Profile reference:**

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| **Essential Requirements** | |
| **Qualifications:**   * Educated to degree level with appropriate professional Social Work qualification i.e. CSS/CQSW or DipSW, MA SW, BA Hons SW and completion of ASYE first year. * Current HCPC Registration. * Evidence of continuous professional development. * Current driving licence and access to a car, or means to mobility support. | Application  Form/Interview |
| **Experience of :**   Extensive post qualifying experience of statutory social work within children and families in a statutory and/or third sector setting.   Experience of working across agencies promoting understanding and good practice in relation to children’s safeguarding matters. | Application  Form/Interview |
| **Knowledge and understanding of:**   * Undertaking comprehensive assessments of those wishing to be assessed as a foster carer or connected carer * Thorough and up to date understanding of the legislative, procedural and research base underpinning social work with children and families. * Knowledge of current developments affecting the provision of   Children’s services including the political and social policy context. | Application  Form/Interview |
| **Ability to:**   * Share information, obtain information and have dialogue with others, either in writing, in person or over the telephone. * Effectively engage with a range of individuals including children, parents and carers, other professionals and colleagues. * Apply knowledge of legislation, research and policy to the practice of social work with children and families. * Effectively use a PC to write reports/assessments, record information or input data. * Establish direction and influence others towards shared goals and empower, inspire and motivate individuals. Model the social work role, promote social work and decision making within and outside the organisation.    Be self-motivated, resilient and committed to excellent social work practice.   Take ownership and responsibility arising from own  and others’ case work appropriate to the level of the post.   * Lead by example and promote excellence. * Offer a flexible approach, including working outside of office hours. | Application Form/Interview |
| Commitment to Equal opportunities | Interview |