

**Job Description**

**Job Title: Youth Advocate (Youth Offending Service)**

**Salary Grade:** Grade 5

**SCP:** 25 - 28

**Job Family:** People Care

**Job Profile:** PC 3

**Directorate:** Early Help

**Job Ref No:**

**Work Environment:** Office, agile and outreach

**Reports to:** Senior Practitioner (Youth Offending Service)

**Number of Reports:** None

**Purpose:**

Support the reduction of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice system and support a reduction in re-offending rates.

To work with children, young people and their families to ensure the delivery of interventions aimed at preventing and reducing the risks and needs which contribute to offending behaviours.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Recognise the needs and risks pertaining to children, young people and their families.
* Manage a case-load of young people to ensure that work is completed to a high standard in a timely fashion. All assigned children and young people will receive services in line with required frequency and intensity.
* Deliver specific activities and interventions (eg advocacy hours, contacts, specific activities and others) in line with YJB requirements/national standards. This will involve direct working with young people and their families, individually or in groups, in the office, in the home and in the community.
* Develop an enabling relationship with children, young people and their families to facilitate the change process.
* Develop a supportive relationship with the family/carer of children and young people and involve family members in the development and implementation of meaningful activities.
* Use motivational skills and techniques to help young people and their families/ carers through the change process to prevent offending and reoffending.
* Employ pro-social modelling skills and knowledge to support young people as part of the change process.
* Identify and evaluate the changing needs and interests of children, young people and their families/carers.
* Support the successful delivery of relevant individual elements of programmes and intervention plans with young people and their families/carers.
* Make defensible decisions in times of crisis and seek appropriate advice from line-managers if needed.
* Identify risky situations and make referrals as appropriate to higher level managers/ICRT/MAPPA, to support public protection requirements.
* Respond to crisis situations for children, young people and their families/ carers using appropriate problem solving and negotiation skills.
* Work as part of a multi-agency team; work with teams of partners across all relevant agencies to ensure effective safeguarding and public protection.
* Contribute to Review and End Assessment processes for children and young people ending their interventions with the YOS to demonstrate distance travelled and outcomes achieved.
* Maintain accurate and timely records of interventions on a client’s record using the current recording system; access other data bases to inform decision-making.
* Undertake all interventions within agreed procedures, protocols, practice guidance and the relevant National Standards.
* Work in line with all current policies and procedures and within the framework surrounding the Youth Offending Service.
* Work flexibly to the needs of the young people and their families. This may include evening and weekend working if appropriate.
* Be part of the weekend/Bank Holiday court rota (an additional allowance is payable for this task).
* Attend such staff meetings, briefings and training as required by the Director of Early Help as part of the wider Early Help offer.

**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.