



**Thinking about becoming a  
supported lodgings officer?**

# What does a supported lodgings officer do?

As a supported lodgings officer you will:

- ✓ Recruit and assess adults who want to become supported lodgings providers
- ✓ Provide ongoing support to supported lodgings providers
- ✓ Arrange and deliver training to supported lodgings providers
- ✓ Work as part of a team with other professionals to ensure that each supported lodgings placement is well supported

You will normally work within County Durham, and where possible your caseload will be arranged geographically.

You won't be providing a statutory service, so there are opportunities to use your creativity and to develop the service in new ways.

## What do supported lodgings providers do?

Many young people leaving care find it difficult to move on to full independence straight away and supported lodgings providers can provide a stepping-stone, giving young people the chance to learn how to live independently in the supportive environment of a family home.

You can read more on our website at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/supportedlodgings>

## What is the team like?

You will join our Young People's Service, a warm and welcoming multi-disciplinary team who are passionate about their work with young people and supportive of each other. The includes social workers, young people's advisors, an accommodation and support co-ordinator, and social work assistants. A small business support team provide administrative support.

The work of the team is supported by a range of named workers from other parts of the Council and other organisations who provide support for the young people with accommodation, benefits and education, training and employment.

You will work closely with the other supported lodgings officer in the team, and the project co-ordinator will provide regular supervision and support.

## Who can be a supported lodgings officer?

You should be a social worker who has completed the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE). You should have an interest in working with adults providing supported lodgings placements to young people. The role offers fantastic opportunities to develop your supervision, coaching and training skills, and to be creative in your approach.

# What do our supported lodgings officers say about working in the Young People's Service?

These are some of comments our supported lodgings officers made when we asked them why they loved the job.

All the providers want the same thing we do. To provide a safe space where the young people can develop their independent living skills, and the support is as much as they need or want.

Once we match a placement the young people fit into normal family life

Everyone we work with wants to work with us

I feel like I'm the glue in the care team!

There is a lot of variety in the work

It's a great team to work in. We all help each other out

We are like an umbrella to our young people

We are all passionate about what we do.

I feel nurtured

The team are warm and supportive. We are a "work family"

## What do our young people say about their experience of supported lodgings?

These comments came from one of our young people 1 year after he left supported lodgings.

It dawned on me just how productive and much needed my time with the [family] was. The more I thought about it, the more I realised how much I was shown genuine and empathetic maternal support which was vital in my development and transition into independence; although it hasn't been a year of amazing triumphs and achievements I am now after all, where I need to be. They were vital as part of my journey to where I am today and I think they deserve to know that.

Together we can do  
**GREAT THINGS**



# Why join us?

County Durham is a great place to work with young people. You will benefit from:

- Competitive salary (starting salary dependent on experience and current salary)
- Contributory career average salary pension scheme
- Allowances for Practice Educators
- Car salary sacrifice scheme
- Interest-free travel loans
- Discounted gym membership

## **A senior leadership team that listens**

- Opportunities for meaningful communication including regular briefings, and practice weeks where senior managers spend time with you in your workplace
- A culture of high expectations, high challenge and high support

## **A warm and welcoming multi-disciplinary team**

- A project co-ordinator who will provide you with regular supervision, and support you with the most important decisions
- A multidisciplinary team dedicated to ensuring young people leaving care are well prepared for independence and adulthood
- Social work assistants who can support you with specific tasks
- A small team who can provide support with administration and finance

## **An electronic case recording system which supports your work**

- Liquid Logic is our case recording system

## **A consistent practice framework**

- Signs of Safety is our Practice Framework supporting consistent practice across Children's Social Care and all of our Partners, which is designed to help you slow down your thinking so that robust evidence-based assessment and analysis guides your practice.

## **Career progression**

- As the 7th largest local authority in England, and the largest in the North East we offer excellent opportunities for career progression

## **Professional development**

- A clear professional development offer
- Funded specialist training
- A commitment to offer you 5 days a year for continuous professional development (CPD)

## **Celebrating your work**

- We make sure you get positive feedback about the things you do well

## **Holiday**

- 26 days holiday per year, increasing to 31 after five years continuous Local Government service
- Option to purchase up to 10 additional days annual leave per year through our salary sacrifice scheme

## **Flexible working**

- Laptop/tablet and mobile phone to help you work wherever you can access Wi-Fi
- Tools to support you to work effectively at a distance (including Microsoft Teams for meetings)
- Freedom to arrange your working day and up to 13 days flexi leave per year
- Opportunities for part time/job share working and for flexible retirement

## **Family life**

- Maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave
- Dependent leave for carers

## **Support when you need it**

- Physiotherapy
- Confidential telephone counselling
- Occupational Health service
- Opportunity to join a trade union

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# What salary and support can we offer you?

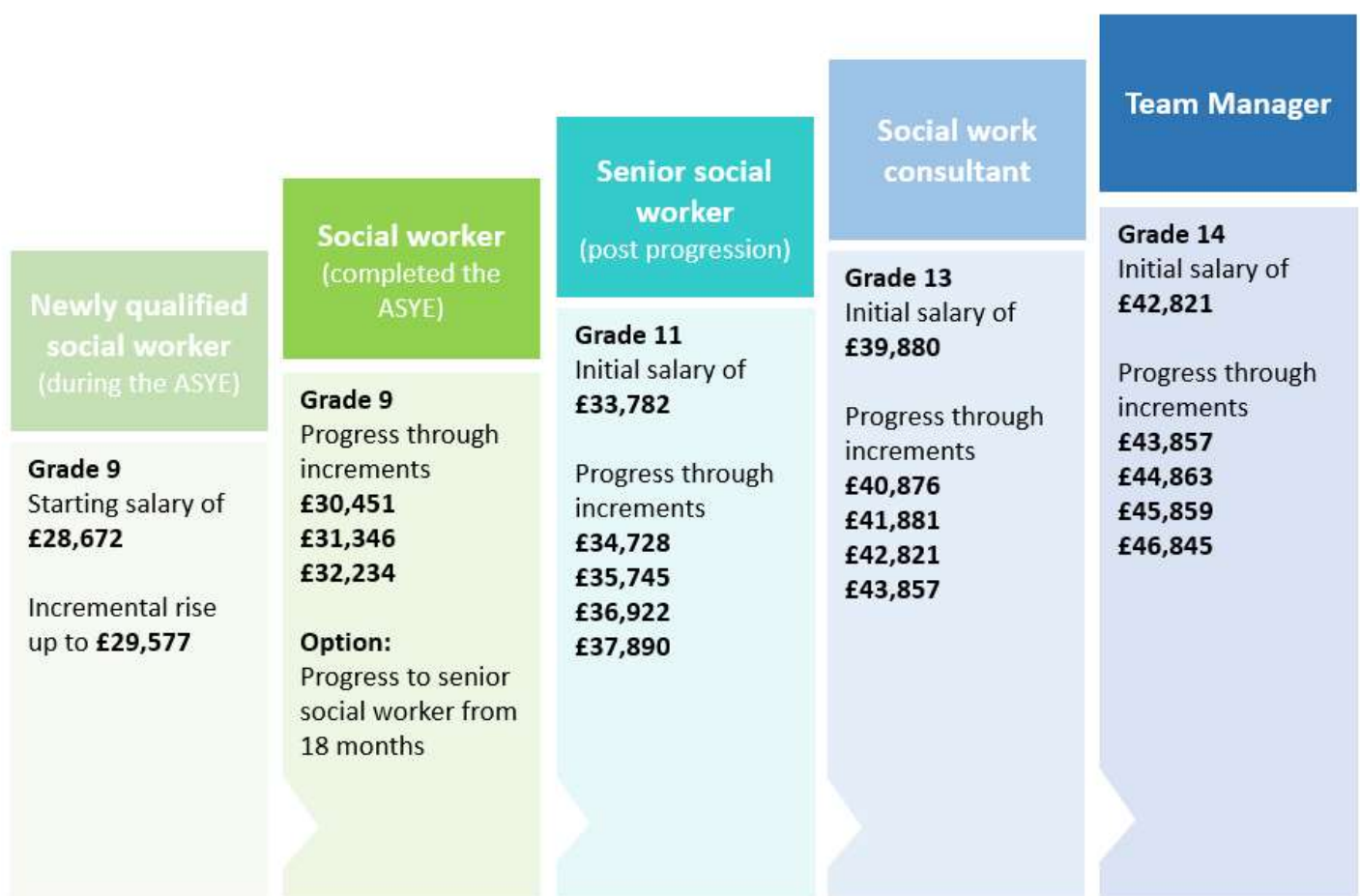
## Salary on appointment

Your salary on appointment will be agreed with you based on your relevant experience and current pay within our social worker and senior social worker scales. You can see our current pay scales in the graphic below.

Wherever our pay scales allow we will match or exceed your current salary.

## Practice educator allowance

We encourage our social workers to become practice educators and support students. As a practice educator you will receive an allowance of £10 per placement day, normally £700-£1000 per placement (placements are normally 70 or 100 days in length).



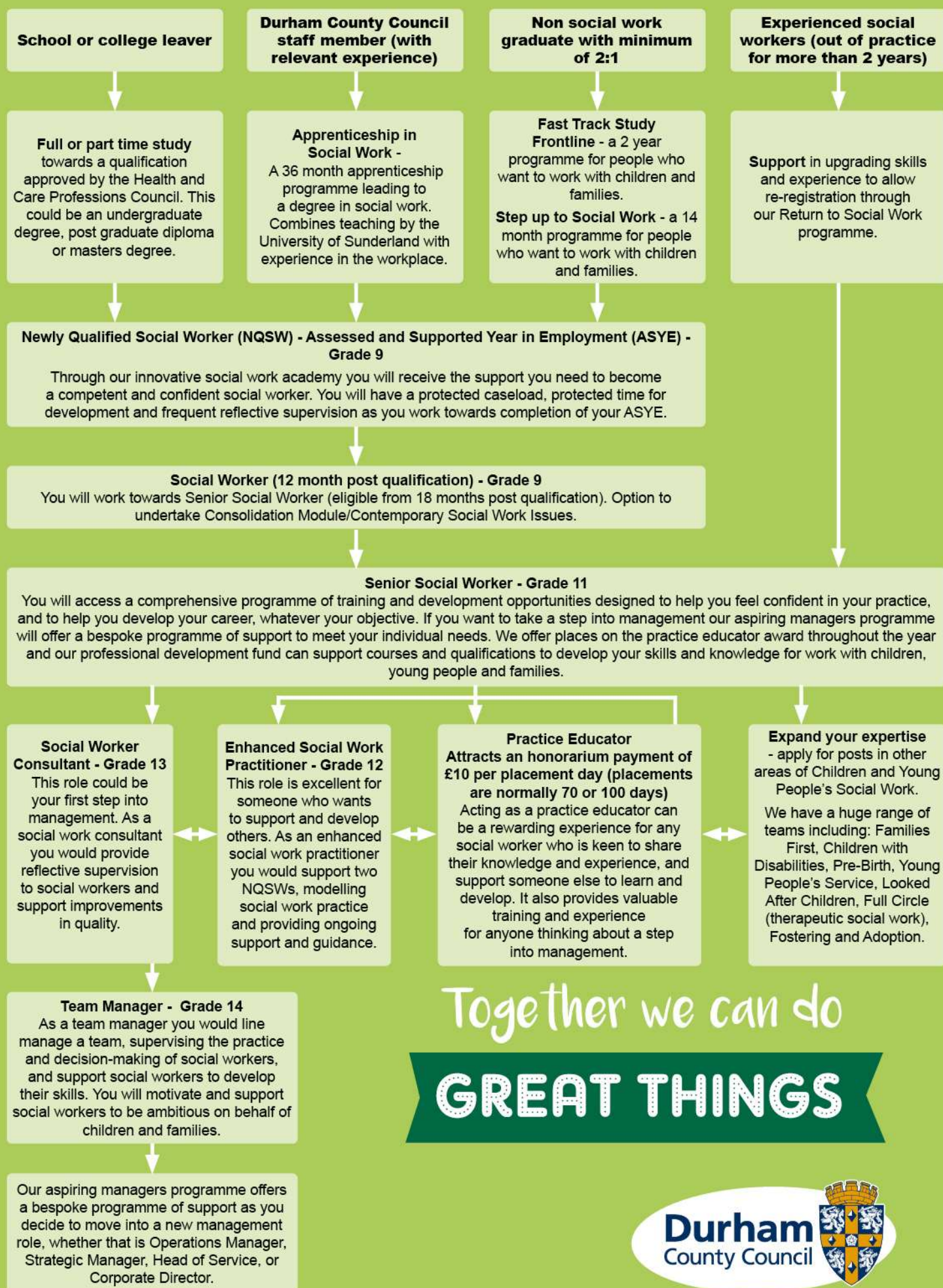
## Progressing in your career

You can develop your career in Durham – whether you want to develop your expertise, move into management or progress to another level of management. You can benefit from our comprehensive professional development programme, commitment to 5 days per year for your continuing professional development and our aspiring managers programme.

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# Careers in children's social work in Durham County Council



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**Durham**  
County Council





# Ready to Apply?

If you are ready to take your first step towards becoming a supported lodgings officer, these tips will help you to make the best application you can.



## Completing your application form

- ✓ Make sure you understand the role and what we are looking for. Read the job description and person specification and speak to the Lead Officer to find out more.
- ✓ Reflect on your own experience, skills and qualities. Your chances of getting to interview are far greater if you apply for positions that are relevant to your existing skill set and experience.
- ✓ **Tailor your application to the job.** We are interested in your experience and skills that are relevant to the role, so teasing out the most relevant aspects of your own skills, knowledge and experience, whether they have been gained in paid work or placements, in your application will demonstrate that you are a good candidate.
- ✓ Where possible pick out each of the elements of the person specification and provide examples of how you meet these, highlighting relevant experience, skills, knowledge and personal qualities. Refer to your knowledge of appropriate legislation, policy and practice developments.

## Preparing for your interview

- ✓ Refer again to the job description and person specification for the role – ensure you are confident about how you meet these requirements.
- ✓ Think about your experience, skills and personal qualities. What will you bring to the role?
- ✓ Think about your assessment skills. What might be the most important things to consider when assessing a supported lodgings provider?
- ✓ Think about what sort of experience, personal qualities and skills young people need from their supported lodgings providers to ensure they are able to make the most of their opportunities.
- ✓ Think about the continuing professional development you have completed and any areas in which you would like to develop.

## Your interview

- ✓ Your interview is likely to take place through Microsoft Teams. When you receive your invitation to your interview read the information carefully so you are in the right virtual place at the right time.
- ✓ Think about the best place to sit so that you are comfortable and have a drink ready.
- ✓ Remember that the people interviewing you want to get the best out of you on the day. It is ok to pause and think about a question, or ask for a question to be repeated.
- ✓ Don't worry if your interviewers are writing rather than giving you eye contact. We need to make sure we record your answers carefully.
- ✓ Think about what you might want to ask your interviewers at the end of the interview.

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