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| **Job Description** | |
| **Post title** | Progression Worker |
| **JE Reference No** | N11140 |
| **Grade** | Grade 7 |
| **Service** | Children and Young People’s Services |
| **Service Area** | Education and Skills; Progression and Learning |
| **Reporting to** | Progression Co-ordinator |
| **Location** | Your normal place of work will be a named location (TBC), but you may be required to work at any Council workplace within County Durham. |
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| **DBS** | This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure. |
| **Flexitime** | This post is eligible for flexitime. |
| **Politically restricted** | This post is not designated as a politically restricted post in accordance with the requirements of Section 1(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by regulations made from time to time by the Secretary of State. |
| **Relevant to this post** | This post is 100% funded until December 2023 through the ESF 1.2 DurhamDirections project through the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England.  DurhamDirections is an EU funded programme which seeks to help Year 11 school pupils at risk of becoming NEET and unemployed 16-24 year olds, improve their skills and move into employment, training or education.  The contract is permanent. |

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| **Description of role** |

The role of Progression Worker is to engage with, and provide support to, young people to enable them to progress into and remain in education, employment or training, as part of their successful transition into adult life. The Progression Worker will direct and monitor the work of the Progression Mentor whilst working in partnership with education and training providers to maximise the potential of young people.

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| **Duties and responsibilities** |

Listed below are the responsibilities this role will be primarily responsible for:

* To work with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET and require additional support e.g. defined vulnerable group.
* To utilise creative approaches in order to engage and maintain contact with harder to reach young people.
* To develop integrated working to ensure targeted groups of young people who are NEET or are at risk of becoming NEET are identified and supported to achieve improved outcomes, progression, and a successful transition into post 16 destinations.
* To co-ordinate, plan and deliver group work interventions and activities to young people identified as at Risk of becoming NEET in identified education provision such as schools and colleges in order to better prepare them for making a successful transition into sustained EET.
* To coordinate and support the work of Progression Mentors within a locality and/or education provision such as school or college.
* To undertake peer observations of Progression Mentors to support their workforce development and professional practice.
* To manage own caseload, using the Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System) and other case management systems as appropriate.
* To identify gaps in learning provision and work together with Progression Co-ordinators to develop progression pathways for young people.
* To accurately maintain and update client records using the Local Authority CCIS, including all interventions, follow-ups and destinations, in order to contribute to accurate Management Information.
* To provide a quality mentoring service to young people identified as being at risk of becoming NEET to ensure they make a successful transition into a post 16 destination.
* To undertake assessment of need in relation to barriers to progression utilising assessment techniques and tools in order to plan and deliver successful interventions.
* To support young people in activities such as raising aspirations, IAG related activities, job search, CV sessions, job applications and applications to education and training providers.
* To track young people, in order to identify those who require support, in line with procedures.
* To work with other agencies and services in order to provide support to young people.
* To provide practical support to young people in order to tackle their barriers to progression.
* To challenge the attitudes and aspirations of some young people who are NEET or are at risk of becoming NEET, in order to encourage them to develop new perspectives that will support their progression.
* To engage with young people (individually and in groups) within their communities and/or education providers to deliver/support high quality youth work and progression/career type activities which build resilience and develop confidence and life skills to improve progression into education, employment or training.
* To work with young people who may have multiple barriers to progression and more complex needs, using an integrated approach with partners such as One Point and Job Centres.
* To identify and nominate suitable young people for vacancies in conjunction with employers, education and training providers.
* To ensure vacancies secured locally are recorded accurately and entered onto the Local Authority CCIS to enable sharing across the Service.
* To establish and maintain positive relationships with specific education and training providers in a chosen locality.
* To engage young people in effective dialogue in order to review and improve Service delivery.
* To ensure effective information sharing in relation to early identification and assessment of need and delivery of support to young people in need of additional support, in order to improve their outcomes.
* To work in the interests of young people through challenging stereotypes and promoting equal opportunities.
* To ensure effective safeguarding and child protection arrangements, in line with Durham County Council policy and guidelines.
* To work in line with Durham County Council policies and procedures.
* To meet own professional development needs by attending appropriate training courses and undertaking self-directed study, as identified through support and supervision, annual appraisal etc.

*The above is not exhaustive and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post as directed by your manager.*

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| **Organisational responsibilities** |

* **Values and behaviours**

To demonstrate and be a role model for the council’s values and behaviours to promote and encourage positive behaviours, enhancing the quality and integrity of the services we provide.

* **Smarter working, transformation and design principles**

To seek new and innovative ideas to work smarter, irrespective of job role, and to be creative, innovative and empowered. Understand the operational impact of transformational change and service design principles to support new ways of working and to meet customer needs.

* **Communication**

To communicate effectively with our customers, managers, peers and partners and to work collaboratively to provide the best possible public service. Communication between teams, services and partner organisations is imperative in providing the best possible service to our public.

* **Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

To take responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing in accordance with the council’s Health and Safety policy and procedures.

* **Equality and diversity**

To promote a society that gives everyone an equal chance to learn, work and live, free from discrimination and prejudice and ensure our commitment is put into practice. All employees are responsible for eliminating unfair and unlawful discrimination in everything that they do.

* **Confidentiality**

To work in a way that does not divulge personal and/or confidential information and follow the council’s policies and procedures in relation to data protection and security of information.

* **Climate Change**

To contribute to our corporate responsibility in relation to climate change by considering and limiting the carbon impact of activities during the course of your work, wherever possible.

* **Performance management**

To promote a culture whereby performance management is ingrained and the highest of standards and performance are achieved by all. Contribute to the council’s Performance and Development Review processes to ensure continuous learning and improvement and to increase organisational performance.

* **Quality assurance (for applicable posts)**

To set, monitor and evaluate standards at individual, team and service level so that the highest standards of service are delivered and maintained. Use data, where appropriate, to enhance the quality of service provision and support decision making processes.

* **Management and leadership (for applicable posts)**

To provide vision and leadership to inspire and empower all employees so they can reach their full potential and contribute to the council’s values and behaviours. Managers and leaders must engage in personal development to ensure they are equipped to lead transformational change; always searching for better ways to do things differently to meet organisational changes and service priorities.

* **Financial management (for applicable posts)**

To manage a designated budget, ensuring that the service achieves value for money in all circumstances through the monitoring of expenditure and the early identification of any financial irregularity.

*The above is not exhaustive and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post as directed by your manager.*

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| Person specification | | |
|  | Essential | Desirable |
| Qualifications | * Level 2 qualification in Information, Advice and Guidance,Youth Work or a relevant subject. | * Counselling qualification. * willingness to work towards a Level 3 qualification in “Information, Advice and Guidance” if opportunity available. |
| Experience | * Experience of working with young people who are vulnerable or NEET, their parents/carers and other professionals. * Experience of providing information, advice, guidance and support to young people. * Experience of working in partnership with employers, education and training providers. * Experience of delivering planned interventions that lead to improved outcomes for young people. * Experience of planning and delivering group work activities to targeted groups of young people. * Experience of managing a caseload | * Experience of using client databases to record interventions. * Experience of providing support and advice to collegues to further their professional development |
| Skills & Knowledge | * Understanding of issues/barriers relating to young people who are vulnerable or NEET and their progression into education, employment or training. * A person-centred, empathetic and non-judgemental approach to working with young people. * Ability to communicate effectively with a range of individuals, including parents/carers, employers and colleagues in education, care and health as appropriate. * Ability to use ICT including Outlook and Microsoft Office. * Good communication and interpersonal skills. * Good written skills and an ability to produce clear and understandable action plans and reports. * Good organisational skills. * Ability to prioritise and manage own workload. * Effective negotiation skills. | * Knowledge of current local labour market and employer needs. * Knowledge of agencies and services that are available to support young people who are NEET and require additional support. * Action planning and goal setting skills * Knowledge of post-16 learning and career options. |
| Personal Qualities | * Open, friendly and supportive with a genuine interest in supporting young people to progress. * Hold high aspirations for young people. * Personal resilience. * Ability to motivate and support young people, colleagues and partners. * Commitment to high quality service delivery. * Adaptability, flexibility and capacity to work effectively under pressure and to tight deadlines. * Ability to work under direction and to use own initiative when appropriate. * Ability to work as part of a team making active contributions to support its success. * Willingness to undertake ongoing professional development. * Commitment to Equal Opportunities. * Willingness to occasionally work unsocial hours as required, including evenings and weekends. | * Access to a car or means of mobility support (if driving, must hold a full current UK driving licence and appropriate insurance). |