

Child and family social work in our Families First teams

Together we can do

GREAT THINGS



Why work with children and families in County Durham?

County Durham is a great place for child and family social workers. You will benefit from:

- Competitive salary and contributory career average salary pension scheme
- Recruitment and retention allowance in our Families First teams
- A possible attractive relocation package up to a maximum of £6,000 in our Families First teams
- Practice educator payments
- 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 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.

Support for your work with children and families

- A team manager who will provide you with regular supervision, including reflective case supervision, and support you with the most important decisions
- A social work consultant who will offer you day-today advice on your cases, support you with difficult meetings and help you stay on track
- Family workers who can work with families to meet their needs
- A team co-ordinator who will support you with the important administrative tasks like arranging meetings and sending out documentation
- A dedicated supervised contact team
- A locality based voluntary and community sector worker who can help you find the support you need for families
- A Supporting Solutions Service which supports young people on the 'edge of care' and their parents or carers
- A One Point Service which offers programmes to support parents with issues like domestic abuse, parenting and self-esteem

An electronic case recording system which supports your work

 Liquid Logic has been our case recording system since February 2019

Career progression

- As the 7th largest local authority in England, and the largest in the North East we offer excellent opportunities for career progression, whether broadening your experience as a social worker or stepping into management
- Aspiring managers programme to help you step up to the next level, whether that is social work consultant, team manager, or head of service

Professional development

- Development pathways for every stage of your career
- A clear professional development offer
- Funded specialist training
- A commitment to offer you 5 days a year for continuous professional development (CPD)

Celebrating social 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 wifi
- Freedom to arrange your working day and up to 13 days flexi leave per year
- Opportunities for flexible working patterns such as condensed hours/part time/job share working and for flexible retirement

One of my favourite things about working for Durham County Council is the people. There's a great team spirit and people are very willing to help each other. We encourage a supportive atmosphere and that permeates across all of our teams.

Hayley (Social Worker)

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

Careers in children's social work in Durham County Council

School or college leaver

Full or part time study

towards a qualification approved by the Health and Care Professions Council. This could be an undergraduate degree, post graduate diploma or masters degree.

Durham County Council staff member (with relevant experience)

Apprenticeship in Social Work -

A 36 month apprenticeship programme leading to a degree in social work. Combines teaching by the University of Sunderland with experience in the workplace.

Non social work graduate with minimum of 2:1

Fast Track Study

Frontline - a 2 year programme for people who want to work with children and families.

Step up to Social Work - a 14 month programme for people who want to work with children and families.

Experienced social workers (out of practice for more than 2 years)

Support in upgrading skills and experience to allow re-registration through our Return to Social Work programme.

Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) - Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) - Grade 9

Through our innovative social work academy you will receive the support you need to become a competent and confident social worker. You will have a protected caseload, protected time for development and frequent reflective supervision as you work towards completion of your ASYE.

Social Worker (12 month post qualification) - Grade 9

You will work towards Senior Social Worker (eligible from 18 months post qualification). Option to undertake Consolidation Module/Contemporary Social Work Issues.

Senior Social Worker - Grade 11

You will access a comprehensive programme of training and development opportunities designed to help you feel confident in your practice, and to help you develop your career, whatever your objective. If you want to take a step into management our aspiring managers programme will offer a bespoke programme of support to meet your individual needs. We offer places on the practice educator award throughout the year and our professional development fund can support courses and qualifications to develop your skills and knowledge for work with children, young people and families.

Social Worker Consultant - Grade 13

This role could be your first step into management. As a social work consultant you would provide reflective supervision to social workers and support improvements in quality.

Enhanced Social Work Practitioner - Grade 12

This role is excellent for someone who wants to support and develop others. As an enhanced social work practitioner you would support two NQSWs, modelling social work practice and providing ongoing support and guidance.

Practice Educator Attracts an honorarium payment of £10 per placement day (placements are normally 70 or 100 days)

Acting as a practice educator can be a rewarding experience for any social worker who is keen to share their knowledge and experience, and support someone else to learn and develop. It also provides valuable training and experience for anyone thinking about a step into management.

Expand your expertise

- apply for posts in other areas of Children and Young People's Social Work.

We have a huge range of teams including: Families First, Children with Disabilities, Pre-Birth, Young People's Service, Looked After Children, Full Circle (therapeutic social work), Fostering and Adoption.

Team Manager - Grade 14

As a team manager you would line manage a team, supervising the practice and decision-making of social workers, and support social workers to develop their skills. You will motivate and support social workers to be ambitious on behalf of children and families.

Our aspiring managers programme offers a bespoke programme of support as you decide to move into a new management role, whether that is Operations Manager, Strategic Manager, Head of Service, or Corporate Director.

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What salary and support can we offer you?

Social worker

You can go through the progression process taking you to senior social worker with a significant increase in salary from as early as 18 months. Progression recognises and celebrates your ability to work consistently at a higher level of responsibility with more complex cases.

Senior social worker/enhanced social work practitioner/Social work consultant/ Team manager

You can develop your career in Durham - whether you want to develop your expertise, move into management or progress to another level of management. Our aspiring managers programme will give you a comprehensive professional development offer, including 5 days a year for continuing professional development.

Newly qualified social worker (during the ASYE)

Grade 9 Starting salary of £28,672 Incremental rise up to £29,577

Social worker (completed the ASYE)

Grade 9
Progress through increments £30,451 £31,346 £32,234
Option:
Progress to senior social worker from 18

Senior social worker (post progression)

Grade 11
Initial salary of £33,782
Progress through increments £34,728
£35,745
£36,922
£37,890

Enhanced Social Work Practitioner

Grade 12 Initial salary of £36,922 Progress through increments £37,890 £38,890 £39,880 £40,876

Social work consultant

Grade 13 Initial salary of £39,880 Progress through increments £40,876 £41,881 £42,821 £43,857

Team manager

Grade 14
Initial salary of
£42,821
Progress through
increments
£43,857
£44,863
£45,859
£46,845

Note: Recruitment and retention allowance of £2,500 (pro rata) annually paid as a lump sum in Families First teams (subject to annual review against market conditions)

Recruitment and retention allowance

month

Social workers who have completed the ASYE, senior social workers, enhanced social work practitioners, social work consultants or team managers joining our Families First teams will receive a recruitment allowance of £2,500 (pro rata) paid as a lump sum.

Social workers who have completed the ASYE, senior social workers, enhanced social work practitioners, social work consultants or team managers who have worked in one of our Families First teams for a year or more will receive an annual retention allowance of £2,500 (pro rata), reviewed annually against market conditions.

Salary at appointment

Salary is agreed with newly appointed social workers, enhanced social work practitioners, social work consultants and team managers based on relevant experience.

Practice Educator allowance

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





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