

Job Title: Independent Visitor

Team/Service Area: Children's Social Care

Salary/Grade: Volunteer

Weekly Working Hours: Please see advert text

Allowances: Expenses

Line Manager: Estelle Brown

Direct Reports: Community and Volunteer Team

Location: Sunderland City (may include surrounding areas)

About Us

Established in 2017, Together for Children Sunderland is on a mission to improve services in Social Care, Early Help and Education and engage the whole community in giving children and young people in Sunderland the best possible opportunity to thrive.

Our dedicated workforce strives to make a difference, irrespective of our work vocation or specialism.

We value diversity and actively seek candidates from all backgrounds, including various ages, disabilities, neurodiverse individuals, gender identities, sexual orientations, religions, beliefs, races, and cultural backgrounds. Our inclusive workplace culture fosters collaboration and excellence.

Find out more: [Find out more - Together for Children](#)

About the Role

Volunteer Independent Visitors.

Some children and young people who are cared for have little or no contact with their families. They live in a children's home and may have moved among numerous foster carers, or could be cared for by a family member or friend. The young people see Independent Visitors as adult friends who support them through difficult times. You may support them to join a sports team, or take them to activities such as the cinema, cycling, bowling or dog walking. You will provide a listening ear and, in many cases, offer a long-term support to the young person.

You must be as independent as possible from Children's Social Care, and for this reason you must not work for Together for Children or be an elected member of the local council.

This role is exempt from the Rehabilitation Offenders Act 1974 and therefore requires a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

Key Responsibilities

- To visit a child or young person who is 'cared for' by Sunderland City Council, on a regular basis as mutually agreed.
- Commit to a minimum period of 12 months of volunteering.
- To provide sound advice to the child or young person.
- To befriend the child or young person by taking an interest and by working at developing a beneficial relationship with them.
- To contribute to the welfare of the child by promoting the child's developmental, social, emotional, educational, religious and cultural needs.
- To encourage the child to exercise their rights and to participate in decisions which will affect them.
- To support the care plan for the child and their carers, unless there are clear reasons not to.
- To keep in touch with others who have responsibility for the child or young person – e.g. the child's social worker and carers - and to strive to 'complement' their roles.
- To attend 'Cared – For' reviews for the individual child or young person (if appropriate); possibly also to attend relevant representations procedures, meetings, etc.
- To make use of support mechanisms provided.
- To abide by the independent visiting scheme's confidentiality and other policies.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Champion equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of your work and the communities you assist.



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Our Expectations

You must undertake this role in accordance with the requirements set out below:

- Comply with Together for Children's Code of Conduct, People Policies and Procedures, Health and Safety Policy and EDI Statement.
- Uphold all relevant professional policies, standards and legislative requirements.
- Adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles in relation to the management and handling of personal and/or sensitive information and respect the privacy of personal information managed by Together for Children Sunderland.
- Comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This job description is a guide to the duties you will be expected to perform. It is not an exhaustive list, and you may be required to undertake other tasks and duties not listed that are reasonably commensurate with the job role and grade of the post. Where a fundamental change to the job description is needed this will be discussed with the postholder prior to any changes being made

Date: 09/01/2025

The requirements for this post and how candidates will be assessed are set out below.

Essential Requirements	Method of Assessment
Qualifications • No formal education or qualifications are needed. You will need to have an active interest in the welfare of children, a flexible attitude and be resilient.	Interview
Experience • An appreciation of the issues relevant to looked after young people and how being 'cared for' might affect them. • Self- Awareness, have an understanding of your strengths and challenges and know what helps you strive. • Some experience of working with young people whether on a professional, personal or voluntary capacity.	Application Form
Knowledge and Understanding • Knowledge of the issues impacting children who are cared for by the Local Authority.	Application



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• Able to relate to children and young people and have fun with them. • Patient and willing to focus on the needs of the young person. • Able to listen in a non-judgmental way. • Able to support the young person to voice their views. • Keen to participate in activities with the young person. • Consistent, reliable, and trustworthy. • Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality. • The ability to form positive working relationships with a variety of people who are involved with the young person. • The ability to work on your own initiative but also know when to ask for advice or support.	
Skills and Abilities • Commitment to children and young people. • Flexibility to build a relationship with a young person at their pace. • Sensitivity to the needs of young people and to those who are cared for. • Reliability. • Resilience. • Empathy. • Have an active interest in the welfare of young people. • Ability to promote equal opportunities and a non-judgmental attitude.	Interview
Other Requirements • Aged 18+. • Be able to commit to a young person for at least 12 months of volunteering which includes a minimum of 1 to 2 face to face sessions per month. • Be able to commit to initial and ongoing training and supervision. • Willingness and ability to travel as required by the role. • Be within a reasonable commuting distance of Sunderland. • Commitment to Equal Opportunities.	Interview



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