

Job Title: Fostering Social Worker

Team/Service Area: People Care

Salary/Grade: Grade 7/8 SCP (26-36)

Line Manager: Fostering Team Manager

Direct Reports 0

Location: Your normal place of work will be at sandhill but you may be Required to work at any company recognised workplace.

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

To be responsible for, recruiting, assessing, supervising, training and supporting Foster Carers with the children placed with them. This includes promoting Together for Children's values, qualities and standards to ensure a professional service for placing teams with the aim of achieving improved outcomes and experiences for children and young people placed with our Foster Carers, whilst working in the legislative and regulatory framework.

You will need to have sound knowledge of the Children Act 1989 and be able to demonstrate excellent communication and negotiation skills. Experience of working with children, foster carers, parents and other professionals is highly desirable. Knowledge of family finding and matching children with carers would also be an advantage. A good understanding of the Fostering Regulations, Guidance and National Minimum Standards 2011 (England) is expected.

Key Responsibilities

- To undertake assessments of Foster Carers as required by Together for Children (TFC) using the standard 'Form F' assessment format.
- To prepare reports as required for other forums.
- To recruit, assess, train and support both prospective and approved Foster Carers.
- To manage a caseload of approved and registered Foster Carers.
- To liaise appropriately with placing teams and other professional services as required.
- Undertake Foster Carer reviews (as required) and take these to the fostering panel in accordance with TFC policies and procedures.
- To help carers to assist children and young people to understand and value their racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and sexual identity.
- To help carers deal with issues arising from placements, such as finance, equipment, insurance issues and transport.
- Ensure foster carers understand and fully implement the child's Care Plan.
- Attend Reviews of children and young people placed with carers, Care Agreement Meetings and any other meetings where required.
- Report any concerns relating to the work you undertake to the Registered Manager (or nominated person) immediately.
- To assist with the development and delivery of on-going training for Foster Carers and to participate in recruitment events, and information days as required.
- To develop and maintain relationships with Foster Carers, placing authorities, children's Social Care Services and other professional organisations as required.
- To undertake any other reasonable duties as required by the service or as instructed by your line manager.
- Flexible working hours are essential. We require a commitment to some weekend work and unsocial hours to support Foster Carers, Foster Carer training, and children and young people.
- To prepare, record and maintain case records and other information in accordance with child protection procedures and timescales.
- To keep up to date with social work practice, and to reflect and identify development and training needs to ensure continuous professional development.
- To work within the Together for Children's professional policy and procedures, and code of conduct.
- To champion diversity and equality.
- 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: June 2025



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Person Specification – Fostering Social Worker

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

Essential Requirements	Method of Assessment
Qualifications - Educated to degree level with appropriate professional Social Work qualification i.e. CSS/CQSW or DipSW, MA SW, BA Hons SW and completion of ASYE first year. - Current SWE Registration. - Evidence of continuous professional development. - Current driving licence and access to a car, or means to mobility support.	Application Form
Experience - Statutory social work with children and families in a statutory or third sector setting and specifically in Fostering; - Working across agencies promoting understanding and good practice in relation to children's safeguarding; - Applying principles of child care legislation relating to child protection, looked after children and the provision of services to children in need; - Providing direct professional social work to children and their families; - Managing an allocated caseload; planning and organising workloads; - Working in partnership with service users, carers service providers and other professionals; - Handling problems and difficult situations calmly and sensitively.	Application Form
Knowledge and Understanding - Social care legislation, with current safeguarding policies and procedures; - Children Act 1989 and 2004.	Application Form
Skills and Abilities - The ability to share information, obtain information and have dialogue with others, either in writing, in person or over the telephone. - Be able to work effectively within a busy team environment, be helpful and co-operative with others ; - Effectively risk manage within children's service settings; - Manage priorities and work demands displaying initiative and creativity; - Effectively use a PC to write reports/assessments, record information or input data;	Interview



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• Be confident on challenging other professionals appropriately; • Self-motivated, resilient and committed to excellent social work practice; • Take ownership and responsibility arising from own and others' case work appropriate to the level of the post; • Be willing to lead by example and promote excellence; • Obtain knowledge of support to Foster Carers; • Introduce new ways of working, particularly adopting innovative and flexible methods; • Reliable and self-reliant and to seek guidance when appropriate; • Meet the travel requirements of the post;	
Other Requirements • Commitment to Equal Opportunities	Interview



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