

Job Title:	Social Worker/Senior Social Worker (Child Focused Family Court Advisor).
Team/Service Area:	Localities Children's Social Care
Salary/Grade:	Grade 7/8
Line Manager:	Team Manager
Direct Reports:	None
Location:	Your normal place of work will be 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

This is an exciting new role within Together for Children in preparation for the role out of the Child Focused Courts model. The purpose is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children involved in private family law proceedings by delivering high-quality, timely, and child-focused assessments and interventions. The role ensures that the voice, wishes, and lived experiences of children are central to all court-related work and decision-making and that decisions are made in a timely manner.

You would do this in line with the relevant policies and procedures in place within Together for Children and Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Partnership which support us to keep children and young people safe.

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

Key Responsibilities

Child-Centred Assessment & Engagement

- Directly engage with children to understand their wishes, feelings, and experiences using age-appropriate methods.
- Ensure the child's voice is clearly represented and prioritised in all reports and recommendations to the court.
- Analyse the impact of parental conflict, domestic abuse, and other risks on children's wellbeing.

2. Court Work & Reporting

- Prepare high-quality, evidence-based Child Impact Reports within court timescales.
- Provide clear, balanced recommendations focused on the child's best interests.
- Attend court hearings and give professional evidence where required.

3. Safeguarding & Risk Management

- Identify and assess risks, including domestic abuse, neglect, substance misuse, and mental health concerns.
- Undertake robust safeguarding checks and collaborate with partner agencies.
- Escalate concerns and implement safeguarding procedures where appropriate.

4. Implementation of the Child-Focused Courts Model

- Work in a problem-solving approach, promoting early resolution where safe and appropriate.
- Support the court in simplifying processes and avoiding delay for children.
- Focus on reducing parental conflict and its impact on children.

5. Multi-Agency Collaboration

- Liaise effectively with partner agencies including schools, health professionals, and voluntary organisations.
- Contribute to planning and interventions that support children's welfare.
- Share information appropriately in line with safeguarding and data protection requirements.

6. Supporting Families

- Work constructively with parents/carers to improve understanding of children's needs.
- Encourage co-operative parenting where safe.
- Signpost or refer families to appropriate support services.
- Work within the Signs of Safety practice model

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: May 2026

Person Specification – Social Worker/Senior Social Worker (Child Focused Family Court Advisor)

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. • Current Social Work England Registration • Current driving licence and access to a car or means to mobility support • Evidence of continuous professional development. • Completion of ASYE (desirable)	Application Form
Knowledge and Understanding • Social care legislation, with current safeguarding policies and procedures. • Children Act 1989 and 2004.	Application Form
Skills and Abilities • A minimum of one year's post qualifying experience. • Statutory social work with children and families • Working within childcare legislation relating to child protection, cared for children and the services we provide to children in need. • Must have experience of working with children, young people and families within the Children Act 1989 and 2014 • Working with other professionals involved with children and their families. • Undertaking child protection enquiries; planning and organising workload to meet statutory timescales • Managing, planning, and organising an allocated workload • Handling problems and difficult situations calmly and sensitively to help keep children safe.	Interview
Other Requirements • Commitment to Equal Opportunities	Interview