Job Title:	Alternative Provision Taskforce Manager
Team/Service Area:	Education Services
Salary/Grade:	
Line Manager:	Strategic Lead
Direct Reports:	Multi-disciplinary Taskforce Team (typically 4–8 staff and partner contributions)
Location:	Alternative Provision setting(s) / Bunny Hill / Outreach across Sunderland

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.

About the Role

The Alternative Provision Taskforce Manager will lead and manage a multi-disciplinary Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST), delivering coordinated, child-centred interventions for children and young people with complex needs.

The postholder will plan, organise and control the delivery of this sub-service area, ensuring effective deployment of specialist support across education, health, social care and youth justice partners.

This is a key leadership role within Sunderland's inclusion system, working closely with Alternative Provision settings and partners to improve outcomes including attendance, reintegration, engagement and wellbeing.

You will work closely with senior leaders across Together for Children and partner agencies to embed effective multi-agency working, improve access to timely support, and ensure services are responsive to need.

The role requires strong leadership, system coordination and the ability to work confidently in complex and sensitive environments, supporting schools, families and partners to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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

This is a fixed-term role, funded externally until March 2029.

Key Responsibilities

- To lead and manage the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce as a defined service area, ensuring delivery of coordinated and effective support for vulnerable children and young people.
- To develop, implement and monitor operational delivery plans for the Taskforce, aligning with local SEND, inclusion and Alternative Provision priorities.
- To organise and deploy resources across the Taskforce, including directly managed staff and specialist contributions from partner agencies.
- To oversee referral, triage and case management processes, ensuring timely, proportionate and impactful interventions.
- To chair and coordinate multi-agency meetings, ensuring clear planning, accountability and review of outcomes for children and families.
- To ensure high quality assessment, planning and intervention across the Taskforce, including input into education, health and care planning where appropriate.
- To provide authoritative advice and guidance to senior leaders, schools and partners on Alternative Provision, inclusion and complex pupil needs.
- To develop, implement and review policies, procedures and ways of working relating to the Taskforce and wider inclusion system.
- To lead workforce development, including training, coaching and modelling of best practice across Alternative Provision and partner services.
- To build and maintain effective partnerships with education, health, social care and youth justice services, including negotiating and coordinating service contributions and secondment arrangements.

- To ensure all aspects of service delivery are compliant with safeguarding, SEND and statutory duties, including appropriate information sharing arrangements.
- To monitor, analyse and report on performance and outcomes, using data to inform service improvement and demonstrate impact.
- To prepare reports and briefings for senior leaders, TfC Board, DfE, Ofsted and other stakeholders as required.
- To lead, manage and develop staff within the Taskforce, including performance management, supervision and professional development.
- To contribute to wider service planning, development and continuous improvement across the Inclusion Service.
- To represent the service at local and regional forums and contribute to strategic developments in Alternative Provision and inclusion.
- To undertake any other duties commensurate with the role and grade.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- To champion equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the role.

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
- Comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Follow Together for Children and NHS ICB information security standards

This job description is a guide to the duties expected. It is not exhaustive and may be amended following consultation where required.

Date: August 2026

Person Specification – Alternative Provision Taskforce Manager

The essential requirements for this post and how candidates will be assessed are set out below. Where 'application form' is the method of assessment, candidates should evidence that they meet these criteria, to be successful at the shortlisting stage.

We encourage the use of different methods of assessment, including using skills-based assessments, as part of the selection process. Any assessments will usually be carried out prior to interview for shortlisted candidates. Examples include job-related tasks (e.g. analysis of data, in-tray exercise, case study analysis), presentation, group exercises, Children and Young People's Panel.

Essential Requirements	**Method of Assessment**
Qualifications • Degree or equivalent • Relevant professional qualification or equivalent experience in education, social care or related field • Leadership / management qualification or willingness to work towards • Evidence of continued professional development	[Application Form]
Experience • Significant experience working with vulnerable children and young people with complex needs • Experience of leading or managing a team or service area • Experience of multi-agency working across education, health or social care • Experience of developing and implementing service processes or improvements • Experience of analysing performance and using data to drive improvement	[Application Form / Interview]

Knowledge and Understanding • In-depth understanding of Alternative Provision, inclusion and SEND systems • Knowledge of safeguarding legislation and statutory duties • Understanding of national policy, including exclusions, AP reform and Ofsted framework • Knowledge of multi-agency working and integrated service delivery	[Interview / Skills-based assessment]
Skills and Abilities • Strong leadership and people management skills • Ability to plan and organise a service area effectively • Ability to influence and build relationships across partners • Strong communication and negotiation skills • Ability to manage complex and sensitive situations • Analytical skills to interpret data and inform decisions • Ability to produce high-quality reports and briefings • Strong organisational and prioritisation skills	[Skills based assessments / Interview]
Other Requirements • Willingness to participate in the TfC in-house Leadership and Management Programme (Cultivate/Empower/Elevate) • Willingness to form part of the TfC Coaching Programme and commitment to the development of other TfC future leaders and managers through Thrive@TfC • Commitment to Equal Opportunities • Access to transport and ability to travel throughout Sunderland.	[Interview]