

Job Description

Job Title:	Youth Justice Practitioner (Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce)
Team / Service:	Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST)
Salary Grade:	Grade 7
Reports to:	APST Manager
Number of Reports:	None
Location:	Alternative Provision Settings and any Company recognised location.

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

The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST) is a brand new multi-disciplinary team established to improve outcomes for children and young people accessing Alternative Provision across Sunderland. The Taskforce brings specialist professionals together to provide integrated, child-centred support, strengthen inclusion, improve attendance and engagement, reduce risks associated with exclusion, exploitation and serious violence, and support successful reintegration into mainstream education, training and employment.

The role forms part of a co-located multi-disciplinary team including a Youth Justice Worker, Family Help Worker, Reintegration Officer, Educational Psychologist and other specialists

The Youth Justice Officer will provide specialist expertise relating to youth justice, contextual safeguarding, exploitation, serious violence and risk-taking behaviour. The postholder will work directly with children, families, schools and partner agencies to prevent offending, reduce vulnerability and improve educational outcomes.

The role will support children who are currently in Alternative Provision, at risk of exclusion or disengagement from education, or vulnerable to involvement in crime, exploitation or serious violence. The postholder will contribute to coordinated multi-agency intervention plans and help strengthen preventative approaches across the city

The postholder will help identify and address the underlying factors affecting a child's engagement with education, supporting earlier intervention and better coordinated multi-agency responses.

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.

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

Key Responsibilities

- Provide specialist advice, consultation and interventions relating to offending, exploitation, serious violence, anti-social behaviour and contextual safeguarding.
- Work directly with children and young people who are disengaged from education, at risk of exclusion, attending Alternative Provision, or vulnerable to offending or criminal exploitation.
- Coordinate support and reduce risk by working with schools, Alternative Provision settings, social care, police, youth justice, health services and community organisations.
- Contribute to multidisciplinary assessments and intervention plans through regular APST case discussions and reviews.
- Identify children at risk of exclusion, serious violence, criminal exploitation, county lines activity or gang affiliation, and ensure timely preventative support.
- Deliver mentoring, motivational and restorative interventions that build personal responsibility, resilience and positive decision-making.
- Support reintegration into mainstream education and progression to employment, apprenticeships, training or post-16 education.

- Act as the professional link between the APST and Youth Justice Service, supporting coordinated intervention and appropriate information sharing.
- Advise education professionals on managing risk, navigating youth justice processes and responding effectively to vulnerable learners.
- Contribute to monitoring, evaluation and performance reporting on educational engagement, attendance, offending and exploitation.
- Maintain accurate, timely records in line with organisational procedures and information governance requirements.
- Deliver all interventions in line with agreed procedures, protocols, key performance indicators, Youth Justice Board effective practice guidance and National Standards.
- Provide interventions informed by assessed risk and need to prevent offending and re-offending.
- Deliver individual and group interventions, including restorative justice, to reduce offending among children and young people.
- Monitor and evaluate practice in line with agreed procedures, protocols and Youth Justice Board guidance.
- Contribute to a multidisciplinary service that makes full use of colleagues' specialist skills and expertise. Work evenings and weekends as required to support a seven-day service for children and young people.
- Participate in Youth Justice or Ofsted inspections as required by the Company.

Key Outcomes

- Improved educational engagement and attendance.
- Reduced exclusion and repeat placement breakdown.
- Reduced offending and anti-social behaviour.
- Reduced vulnerability to exploitation and serious violence.
- Improved multi-agency planning and coordination.
- Increased reintegration into mainstream education where appropriate.
- Improved progression into sustainable post-16 pathways.

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.

Person Specification - Youth Justice Worker
(Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce)

Essential Requirements	
Qualifications - Professional qualification relevant to Youth Justice, Youth Work, Criminal Justice, Probation, Social Care or a related discipline. - Evidence of continuous professional development.	Application Form
Experience of: - Youth offending case-working/case-management - Working directly with young people and their families and/or carers.	Application Form / Interview
Knowledge and Understanding - The Children Act 1989/2004 and detailed knowledge of criminal justice legislation, including the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. - Crime and current successful methods in intervening with young offenders (in line with Youth Justice Board effective practice guidance.) - Adolescent development, and the ability to apply this in working with young offenders. - The Court system, and the wider criminal justice process.	Application Form / Interview
Skills and Abilities - Experience of working with vulnerable children and young people with complex needs. - Experience of working with children displaying challenging behaviour or at risk of exclusion. - Knowledge of youth justice legislation, policy and practice. - Understanding of contextual safeguarding, exploitation, serious violence and trauma-informed practice. - Experience of multi-agency partnership working. - Experience of undertaking assessments and developing intervention plans. - Ability to engage resistant or hard-to-reach young people. - Knowledge of safeguarding and child protection procedures. - Excellent communication and relationship-building skills. - Experience of accurate case recording and report writing. - Ability to build trusted relationships with young people and families.	Interview

• Ability to influence and challenge constructively across agencies. • Strong assessment and analytical skills. • Ability to manage competing priorities and complex casework. • Effective verbal and written communication skills. • Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team. • Experience of working in education or Alternative Provision settings. • Knowledge of attendance, inclusion and exclusion processes. • Experience of restorative practice approaches. • Knowledge of SEND and neurodiversity. • Experience of supporting transitions into post-16 education, employment or training. • Understanding of the Sunderland partnership landscape and local safeguarding arrangements.	
Other Requirements • Commitment to Equal Opportunities • Access to transport and ability to travel throughout Sunderland.	Interview

Author: Ronnie Lynn

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