

JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

Director Area: Children Services	Job Ref Number: 03983
Service Area: Leaving Care Service	Grade: G7
Job Title: Leaving Care Worker	

PURPOSE OF JOB:

To be a key pivotal point of contact and coordination of support for young people who are leaving care. The worker will be responsible for providing a flexible and reliable connection to our young people. The leaving care worker is key in coordinating the plans we make, and will lead on bringing together the resources available from other agencies to ensure that young people transition to adulthood in a safe and healthy manner. This role will involve direct work with young people, as well as working with their network of peers and family, to ensure they achieve outcomes in line with their individual plans, and the Councils Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy

To support and challenge agencies, families, and young people's wider relationships to bring about lasting change to help drive improved outcomes for care leavers. If young people choose not to work with the service, and are considered harder to reach, then it is the role of the worker to utilise their skills to foster a connection to the young person and bring together the right agencies and opportunities to enhance the life chances and outcomes for care leavers.

To support young people 16 to 25, to move successfully through life, secure education, training, employment, access stable accommodation, and to progress into adulthood as a happy and healthy adult.

The leaving care offer spans children and adult services from 16 to 25 years old, so this job will require staff to have a knowledge of both arenas. Staff will need to be able to help people access support and services to aid social development and deliver direct targeted interventions and support to young people who may be at elevated levels of risk. For example, they may be at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour, risk of losing employment, accommodation, or experiencing poor mental health.

The role will also be required to work as a team to provide a duty service to support young people who may be in crisis and to ensure support is available via the duty service to meet needs and offer information advice and guidance.

TEAM STRUCTURE:

MAIN DUTIES: The specific accountabilities of this role will be flexible and will change to meet the needs of the organisation as required but will include (or be equivalent in nature to) those listed below:

1	To work within policies, practices and procedures of Children's Services Directorate. To manage a caseload of young people and their families/network within the appropriate level of responsibility including direct work with Children and Young People. The Postholder will work in a multi-agency team in conjunction with the Practice Supervisor/Team Manager and access support systems such as supervision, appraisal and team meetings.
2	Encourage and empower young people to participate in all decision making and processes affecting their lives, and involve the peers and family with workers in this process when appropriate.
3	To work in partnership with young people and agencies ensuring professional boundaries are set and maintained. To work alongside young people in devising strategies and plans that will enable them to achieve and sustain positive outcomes and live happy lives.
4	To work within the young person network and home to help them grow their own strategies and abilities to live healthy lives. This may include practical household tasks, ensuring access to education, training and employment and addressing any risk or behavior that could lead to negative outcomes. This will be done in conjunction with appropriate partner agencies.
5	To offer a support and challenge approach with young people and their networks to bring about change and grow positive opportunities in life. To work across a broad age range within the network of people and professionals which may include other adults and children. May be required to work evenings and weekends as required.
6	In partnership with young people and other agencies carry out whole network assessment and plan to deliver interventions which minimise duplication but coordinate/supplement the plans completed by partner agencies.
7	To establish and maintain effective working relationships with statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure a high standard of service and support to young people.

8	To participate in Case Conferences and other similar meetings as deemed appropriate by the Practice Supervisor and/or Team Manager. To act as Lead Professional for the young person wherever appropriate to do so.
9	To be part of a duty system acting as the first point of contact for young people over 21 presenting to urgent support.
10	<p>To prepare reports dealing with young people abilities and needs and review such plans. Within the leaving care service, the statutory plan is a Pathway Plan. Workers should ensure that the plans are within time scales and that activities and goals are against measurable outcomes, and within the framework of policies and procedures.</p> <p>To keep records and documentation pertaining to meetings and contact with children and families in line with Lincolnshire standards and procedures.</p>
11	<p>To effectively manage the workload, demonstrate good time management and a requirement to work evenings and weekends and some public holidays as per a rota to provide a flexible and responsive service, including on-call arrangements.</p> <p>To ensure information on the electronic case management system is maintained accurately and up to date.</p> <p>To consistently prepare for and attend supervision.</p>
12	<p>Participate in learning and development as required by the Team Manager.</p> <p>Understand the usefulness of performance information and to ensure the completion of the appropriate paperwork to capture such information accurately.</p>
13	As an employee, create a positive image of the County Council.
14	Deliver excellent customer service, incorporating the Council's equality and diversity objectives and supporting the council to achieve best practice in all it delivers.
15	Remain up to date and compliant with all relevant legislation, organisational procedures, policies and professional codes of conduct in order to uphold standards of best practice
16	Take personal responsibility for contributing to organisational transformation and changes in ways of working, maximising the benefits and efficiencies for both internal and external customers, including the promotion and use of self -service to achieve maximum cost effectiveness.

PERSON SPECIFICATION			
Requirements	Where identified*	Essential	Desirable
NVQ LEVEL 3 or equivalent	A	Y	
Demonstrate a good level of knowledge and skills in the Leaving Care arena (16 to 25)	A/I	Y	
Ability to produce and maintain accurate records and reports.	A/I	Y	
Ability to act as a Lead Professional for a young person where appropriate with responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and coordination of the young person's plan.	A/I	Y	
To be a key team player and work closely with staff members and specialist workers from other agencies, local authorities and organisations.	A/I	Y	
The Postholder will need to demonstrate they have the ability to effectively engage with children and young people, build relationships which will enable them to assess and intervene to improve outcomes in relation to educational attendance, anti-social behavior, offending and unemployment, health and well being, safeguarding, life aspirations and independence skills	A/I	Y	
The Postholder will need to have a broad understanding of a range of legislation which affects children in care and care leavers. Ability to deliver a wide range of support and interventions. Driving license and vehicle available for work. Commitment and understanding of Health & Safety	A/I	Y	
Knowledge of child development. Knowledge of Safeguarding and risk management.	A/I	Y	

To have and demonstrate a positive attitude to the promotion of diversity and equal opportunities.	A/I	Y	
Possess the ability to work across different organisations' cultures.	A/I	Y	

* A = Application form T = Test/Assessment I = Interview P = Presentation

GENERAL

The postholder is required to take personal responsibility for contributing to organisational transformation and changes in ways of working, maximising the benefits and efficiencies for both internal and external customers, including the promotion and use of self-service to achieve maximum cost effectiveness.

The postholder is expected to work to the Lincolnshire County Council Core Values and Behaviours and to carry out the duties in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council policies.

Other Duties - The duties and responsibilities in this job description are not exhaustive. The post holder may be required to undertake other duties within the general scope of the post. Any such duties should not substantially change the general character of the post. Duties and responsibilities outside of the general scope of this grade of post will be with the consent of the post holder.

Safeguarding - All employees need to be aware of the possible abuse of children and vulnerable adults and if you are concerned you need to follow the Lincolnshire County Council Safeguarding Policy. In addition employees working with children and vulnerable adults have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults during the course of their work.

