

Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To work as a Link Worker as directed by NEW in WEST schools.
2. To build relationships across staff in the schools, children's social care, early help and social sector partners.
3. To act as a trusted adult and role model in the lives of children and families.
4. To maintain a child-centred, child-led approach, enabling young people to move towards greater self-understanding.
5. To co-create personalised developmental plans in partnership with children, caregivers and professionals, to determine the strengths, needs, and goals in the lives of the children, and the necessary support to achieve them.
6. To widen the network of support for the child by linking them to existing organisations and opportunities in the community including cultural engagement, physical activity, curriculum enhancement, and family engagement.
7. To make timely and appropriate onward referrals to specialist support services.
8. To provide scaffolding support, for example emotional regulation techniques or parenting strategies to a child or family awaiting specialist intervention.
9. To maintain detailed case notes on all instances of engagement.
10. To complete assessments, data collection and evaluative feedback in a timely manner to inform good practice.
11. To follow statutory and school policies and procedures in relation to Child Protection, in the interest of children's safety.
12. To attend regular Zone West team meetings, clinical and case supervision and half-termly meetings with schools and social sector partners to provide feedback regarding provision and the Zone West model.
13. To contribute to the development of Zone West, including policies and procedures.
14. To take responsibility for developing and improving your own professional knowledge and skills and support colleagues through peer supervision and peer education.
15. To attend all training and staff development workshops, as required.
16. To maintain and develop competence in the use of IT systems.
17. To attend regular group supervision with other North East Wellbeing Practitioners and share successes and challenges of your practice in order to contribute to self-evaluation and appraisal procedures.
18. To understand and comply with all relevant North East Wellbeing policies and practices including Safeguarding and Diversity and Equality.
19. To abide by policies on Health and Safety and general working practices and to contribute to risk assessments.
20. To work flexibly, according to the demands of the service, and to undertake such other duties identified by the co-ordinator, as may be appropriate to the role.

Person Specification

	Essential Criteria
Qualifications, skills and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good undergraduate degree or other equivalent qualification. • Relevant experience with young people aged 7 to 11 years in family support work, education, social work, youth work, mentoring, counselling or similar. • Experience of assessing and promoting the wellbeing of primary school children who are at risk of becoming looked after. • Experience of working positively with children facing complex social and emotional challenges. • Experience of child-led and child-directed practice. • Excellent understanding of safeguarding, child protection and children’s social care provision; experience of collaborative working with Early Help, Children’s Social Care, Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership. • Understanding and promotion of equality issues, particularly within the context of children’s services. • Experience of supporting children with difficulties attending school, particularly Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance. • Can demonstrate an understanding of trauma informed practice, adverse childhood experiences, and solution focussed approaches to promote best outcomes for children and their families.
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to rapidly engage with children and families to build rapport and establish a safe relationship. • Can demonstrate excellent interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. • Ability to network and manage relationships across multiple settings and communicate professionally and flexibly with a wide group of stakeholders. • Confidence in participation and challenge in multi-agency meetings. • Able to plan work and manage competing priorities in a busy, fast paced environment. • Fluent written and spoken English. • IT competence for case recording and producing data reports in a variety of formats (at a minimum, experience with Microsoft Office suite including Excel, Word, and Google Apps). • A creative, positive and pro-active attitude to new approaches. • Ability to set example of high personal standards. • Energy and enthusiasm and commitment to North East Wellbeing’s inclusive vision and values. • Reliability and integrity.
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge, particularly of diversity within the community. • Driving licence and access to roadworthy vehicle.