

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	SEND Assessment & Review Officer (SEND Officer)		
Directorate	Children & Family Services		
Reporting to	Senior Assessment & Review Officer		
Grade	12		
Evaluation ref:	AG0919	Job ref:	Family PRC12
Role purpose			
<p>Promote professional standards in the service by delivering outcome focussed assessments and contribution to the service and the wider success of the Council and Local Area for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).</p>			
Responsibilities			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote professional standards in the service by delivering outcome focussed assessments and contribution to the service and the wider success of the Council and Local Area for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). 2. Ensure children and young people with SEND receive an Education Health and Care assessment or annual review within statutory timeframes which meets their needs. 3. Support the local authority in meeting the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND code of Practice 2015. 4. Act as a single key point of contact for children, young people, families, education establishments and service users to include ensuring appropriate arrangements of services, advice, support, and guidance. 5. Work with practitioners and services around the child, young person and their family, contributing to identifying when specialist (Social Workers; Educational Psychologists; Occupational Therapists; Speech & Language Therapists and other professionals) involvement is required, make the appropriate contacts and ensure effective liaison with these practitioners, including person centred planning meetings. 6. Promote the early identification of children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability in line with early support principles through working in a multi professional way. 7. Work within statutory timeframes to complete and review EHCP to a high quality. 8. Attend planning meetings, annual reviews, emergency reviews and any other meetings as requested on behalf of the Local Authority. 			

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9. Maintain up to date case records using the Council's pupil database (CAPITA).
10. Manage own caseload and keep managers informed of potential issues.
11. Provide information, support, and promote the Local Offer, e.g. ensure all information uploaded on the Local Offer is the most up to date information recorded.
12. Support formal disagreement resolution actions. Attend mediation meetings and assist the Senior Assessment and Review Officers with Tribunal preparation.
13. Understand the key performance indicators within the service area and contribute to improvement within this area.
14. Maintain an understanding of the relevant legislations both within the Special Educational Needs arena and Childrens' and Adults' social care. Promote opportunity for all.
15. Be aware of safeguarding issues and refer to a Senior member of staff any concerns about the safety or welfare of a service user.
16. Co-ordinate Education, Health & Care needs assessments ensuring compliance with The Special Educational Needs & Disability Code of Practice 2015 and statutory timeframes.
17. Write a clear outcome focussed plan that encompasses all the relevant information about the child or young person that is representative of their need. Maintain caseload records.
18. Build trusting relationships with parents/carers, children, young people, Education Establishments and professionals, whilst managing their expectations.
19. Support the Senior Assessment and Review Officer & SEND Operational Manager as required, but particularly in preparation of case chronologies and Tribunal preparation.

Impact

Contacts & Relationships

1. The principal purpose of the role is to ensure that a consistently good standard of service is delivered to children and families in Somerset meeting or exceeding Statutory, Council or Service standards. This will involve a range of day-to-day activities, including priority setting, resolving issues and team communication.
2. The postholder will report directly to the Senior Assessment & Review Officer.

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3. The postholder will need to develop and maintain a network of colleague in SC and Health Managers, private, voluntary and community sector leaders and managers and other bodies/agencies, both locally and nationally in order to develop the service in line with best practice and ensure that resources are optimised in the delivery of services.

4. The postholder requires sound communication skills to ensure effective feedback arrangements from clients and customers and to enable an effective service to be maintained during changes and new ways of working.

Resources

Deliver outcome focussed assessments and contribute to the service and the wider success of the Council and Local Area for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable	
Knowledge			
Promote professional standards in the service by delivering outcome focussed assessments and contribution to the service and the wider success of the Council and Local Area for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).	E		
Experience			
Sound understanding and practice of multi-disciplinary working.	E		
Evidence of skills, knowledge and experience to be able to assess and manage risk for the most vulnerable children.	E		
Strong evidence that you are a team player but also can demonstrate the ability to work on your own initiative whilst prioritising tasks.	E		
Experience of leading multi-agency meetings	E		
Experience of writing good quality person centred plans.	E		
Experience of working with IT Client databases.	E		
Experience of working within the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures.	E		
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications			
Recognised and relevant professional qualifications e.g. teaching qualifications, social	E		

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work, other level 3 qualifications, management qualifications.			
Evidence of work-related continuing management development.	E		
Skills			
Ability to demonstrate effective time management, excellent organisation, ability to prioritise and effective delegation.	E		
Ability to establish a successful, honest and trusting relationship with the child, young person, family, school and other professionals.	E		
Ability to speak fluent English as stated in Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016).	E		
Working Conditions			
Working Arrangements			
Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.			
Corporate Responsibilities			
Understand, uphold, and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.			

Date: 4th June 2024