

Job Description

Job Title: Advanced Practitioner

Grade: AP Grade

Overall purpose of the job

The role is responsible for providing practical and social work support for children, young people and families. The role will include undertaking assessments, visiting children and their families, carrying out interventions, reviewing the work undertaken, direct work with children, young people and families and any other work identified as necessary. All of this must be based on best evidence and good practice, privileging the best interests of children and young people.

An Advanced Practitioner will hold a small complex case load that will include high risk, high need, looked after children, a range of high profile court work and will undertake specialist assessments and interventions as required. For example, integrated risk assessment, Parent and Assessment Models (PAMS), Assess, Intervene, Move On Assessments (AIMS). This list is not exhaustive.

The Advanced Practitioner is a critical role within the team as they offer mentoring, coaching, support and practice expertise to other less experienced team members. The role has acknowledged depth of expertise, including the assessment and appropriate management of risk.

Main accountabilities

| Main accountabilities | |
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| 1. | Work independently to hold and effectively manage a small complex caseload. This will include the most high risk, high need, looked after children; a range of high profile court work and specialist assessments and interventions as required |
| 2. | Undertake high quality direct work with children, young people and families, involving all key family members and prioritising children and young people's safety. Work using Signs of Safety methodology, which works collaboratively with families to empower them to find solutions whilst ensuring working within the policies, procedures of Children's Services and regulatory standards |
| 3. | Lead on family network meetings and case mappings. Carry out in depth and ongoing family assessment of social need and manage risk to children, with particular focus on parental capacity and capacity to change |
| 4. | Co-work specialist assessments with less experienced members of the team to ensure that they improve and develop |
| 5. | To assist the Team Manager in the recruitment, induction, supervision and appraisal of team members and in the effective management performance in accordance with the council's policies and procedures. |
| 6. | Recognise harm and risk indicators of different forms of harm to children relating to sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect. Consider the possibility of Child Sexual Exploitation, grooming (on and offline), female genital mutilation, enforced marriage and the range of adult behaviours which pose a risk to children, recognising too the potential for children to be perpetrators of abuse |
| 7. | Use reflective supervision, research and other guidance to recognising one's own professional limitations and how and when to seek advice from a range of sources, including senior practice leaders and other clinical practitioners from a range of disciplines. The post holder will work in conjunction with senior staff and managers through available support systems (supervision, appraisal, mentoring, co-working and work shadowing). |

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| 8. | Navigate the family and youth justice systems in England using legal powers and duties to support families, to protect children and to look after children in the public care system, including the regulated frameworks that support the full range of permanence options. Participate in decisions about whether to make an application to the family court, the order to be applied for and the preparation and presentation of evidence |
| 9. | Seek advice and professional second opinion as required in relation to the legal issues, interventions and plans which frequently impact children, young people and families involved with statutory services |
| 10. | Use the law and regulatory and statutory guidance to inform practice decisions. Take into account the complex relationship between professional ethics, the application of the law and the impact of social policy on both. |
| 11. | Make realistic child centred plans within a review timeline which will manage and reduce identified risks and meets the needs of the child. Any plans devised for the child need to be evidence informed, demonstrate clear analysis and professional judgement and evaluative decision making skills. This also includes working with multi-agency partners |
| 12. | Continuously develop knowledge of child development and how this impacts on all aspects of a child's life. This includes physical, cognitive, social, emotional and behavioural development and the impact of different parenting styles. Have a good and continually developing understanding of adult behaviours; for example, adult mental health, domestic abuse, mental health, physical health, disability and substance misuse and the impact on, and inter-relationship between, parenting and child development |
| 13. | Good understanding of working in a complex organisation such as a Local Authority, Trust or other delivery model for Children's Services. Act in ways that protect the reputation of Northamptonshire County Council and the wider Social Work profession whilst always privileging the best interests of children. Contribute to the organisation's role as corporate parent to children in public care. |
| 14. | Arrange or provide transport/escort for Service Users e.g. to health appointments, education; provide practical support including access to living aids, to families and to young people, including those formally looked after by the Authority seeking to live independently in the community |
| 15. | Maintain and update case notes and other records pertaining to the child/children you have responsibility for. Write reports as required and if needed give evidence in court on |
| 16. | Contribute to planning/reviewing the cases of children in care; supervise fostering/adoption arrangements |
| 17. | To devise and deliver practice workshops regularly in team meetings and to other Children's Services staff as required. This could also include group supervision and mapping complex cases with less experienced staff. |
| 18. | Support, coach and mentor other members of the team and be a champion in Signs of Safety. The post holder is expected to be a Practice Educator to social work students on practice placements in the team, support with onboarding and induction and offer mentoring, work-shadowing/work experience opportunities. The post holder could be expected to take on Team Champion roles; for example, Signs of Safety Champion, Munro Champion etc |

Safeguarding commitment

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults. We require you to understand and demonstrate this commitment.

Person Specification

Qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience

Minimum level of qualifications required for this job

| Qualifications Required | Subject | Essential/ Desirable |
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| DipSW, CQSW, Degree in social work or equivalent | Social Work Qualification | Essential |
| Social Work England | Registered as a Social Worker | Essential |
| Further post qualification education or relevant experience or study | Social studies/Practice Educator | Essential |

Minimum levels of knowledge, skills and experience required for this job

| Identify | Describe | Essential/ Desirable |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Knowledge | | |
| Knowledge and understanding of child development, parenting capacity, environmental factors and risk and protective factors | | Essential |
| Comprehensive knowledge of the Children Act 1989 and other relevant legislation, regulations and guidance | Awareness of the main legislative framework within which the role operates. | Essential |
| Knowledge of the range of services which are available to children and families and of the organisational framework within which they are provided | | Essential |
| Knowledge of child development and of family functioning and dynamics. | | Essential |
| Evidence of seeking out continual professional development opportunities to include leadership, supervision, mentoring, coaching | | Essential |
| Skills | | |
| | Ability to work as a team with children and families including working co-operatively with other professionals and agencies to meet the needs of the child. | Essential / Significant |
| Professional Curiosity | | Essential |
| Communication skills | Skills and Knowledge in listening to children and adults, in observation and in carrying out assessments of strengths and weakness within families. | Essential |
| | Able to communicate sensitively with children and families with other colleagues, and effectively in writing. | Essential / Significant |
| In accordance with the immigration act | | Essential |

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| demonstrate a level of fluency in English to be able to converse and provide advice to customers with ease | | |
| Conscientious and emotionally resilient | | Essential |
| Experience | | |
| Post qualification experience of children and families social work within a statutory or voluntary organisation | Proven ability to relate professionally with children and families evidenced through previous work as a Social Worker. | Essential |
| Supervising staff | Experience of supporting more junior roles in a social work environment | Essential |
| Driving License | Full driving license to be able to drive to customers and meetings across a large geographical area. | Essential |
| Equal opportunities | Ability to demonstrate awareness/understanding of equal opportunities and other people's behaviour, physical, social and welfare needs | |
| Safeguarding | Demonstrate an understanding of the safe working practices that apply to this role. | |
| | Ability to work in a way that promotes the safety and well-being of children and young people/vulnerable adults. | |

Disclosure level

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| What disclosure level is required for this post? | None | Standard |
| | Enhanced | Enhanced with barred list checks |

Work type

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| What work type does this role fit into? (tick one box that reflects the main work type, the default workers type is flexible) | Fixed | Flexible | Field | Home |
|---|-------|----------|-------|------|