

Job description

Job title:	Senior Youth Practitioner
Grade:	Dorset Grade 10 - Level 2
Job evaluation reference:	ES654b - Level 2
Job family:	Health and Social Care

Purpose and impact

To work within the Harbour service as part of the management team, including residential settings, to provide intensive short- term interventions for young people to prevent entry into care, escalation to long term care, prevent placement breakdown, or facilitate placement step downs.

The core purpose of this job is as part of the management structure of The Harbour to provide proactive support and interventions to families and young people so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes in life. The post holder will be responsible for the direct day-to-day care of young people within a residential home accompanied by other support tasks and duties. The post holder will also provide support to young people on the edge of care, accommodated in foster placements or still in family homes. The post holder will work in the community in addition to the residential homes and will play a key role providing a range of interventions to prevent children entering care.

The post holder will work within a defined culture and intervention practice model and will adopt a solution focused and restorative approach.

Key responsibilities

- Be aspirational in supporting young people in all areas of their lives including physical/mental health, forming relationships, developing life skills, keeping safe, education/training/employment and accessing appropriate housing
- Be sensitive to the needs of the individual young people regarding race, culture, language, religion, gender, sexuality, faith and culture-specific events
- Develop effective key working relationships with young people and maintain relationship throughout key transition points and post 18 if required
- Share in the practical activities necessary to maintain a warm, welcoming and safe environment
- Participate in assessing risks and producing action plans in relation to challenging behaviours, safeguarding and general health and safety using a risk managed (not risk averse) approach
- Provide for young people's physical needs as necessary-for example by cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, shopping, budgeting, making appointments-and equip them with the skills they will need to be able to carry out such tasks themselves
- Deliver support to young people and families across all Harbour placements and services - i.e. activities, residentials, edge of care, Harbour accommodation placements, bespoke arrangements and after care services/placements
- Ensure young people are kept informed of their circumstances and rights and promote young people taking an active role in planning their lives



- Adopt a solution focused approach to working with young people and families in order to help them rebuild relationships, increase their achievements, reduce their risks and build on their strengths
- Promote and participate in Community Meetings
- Produce accurate, informative and timely written and IT-based records
- Regularly reflect on practice (both your own and general operating practices) and take full advantage of professional supervision and appraisals.
- Contribute to and participate in case progress meetings, statutory reviews and all other meetings as required and assist in the formation and implementation of care plans and action plans that meet individual need
- Support the process of transition in a timely way by helping young people achieve and promoting their attainment of life skills
- Proactively support young people to return to their families, where appropriate
- Develop and utilise effective communication skills
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues, managers, partners and stakeholders
- Give young people the opportunity to participate in decisions affecting them, as appropriate to their age and ability, and take their wishes and feelings into account
- To foster an ethos of inclusiveness and desire to work in partnership with parents/carers when planning packages of support and intervention.
- To plan, deliver and evaluate a flexible, responsive out of hours service of planned work to meet the needs of families
- To ensure Child Protection procedures are followed, in consultation with managers and to liaise with other agencies as appropriate.
- To participate and contribute in planning meetings and child protection case conferences as required
- To undertake Sleeping- In duties
- Understand the principles of child development and support development through promoting a healthy lifestyle, providing a variety of appropriate stimulating activities and being a consistent and caring adult role model
- Role model a flexible, persistent and resilient approach to working with and supporting young people with complex and challenging behaviours.
- Understand the impact of trauma, neglect and early adversity on adolescents
- To participate and contribute in planning meetings and child protection case conferences as required
- To participate in and contribute to, training and development as required including delivering training in areas of specialism as agreed
- Develop specialised knowledge and skills and then act as a 'champion' to drive forward good practice and share your expertise with others across the team
- Fulfil commitments when trained as a trainer in specialist skills
- Support the effective induction of new and sessional staff and help develop and promote a learning culture within the organization
- Supervise and mentor junior staff and any trainees or equivalent.

NB: The duties and responsibilities of this post are not restrictive and the post holder may be



required on occasion to undertake other duties. This will not substantially change the nature of the post.

Supervision and management

Reporting to: Registered Manager

Other factors

The working pattern will be flexible and will reflect the needs of the cohort of children that the service is working with at any particular time. Weekend, evening, bank holidays and night work will be required on a rota basis. Sleep-in duties will be required for which an allowance is payable.

Our behaviours

Dorset Council has developed and embedded a set of behaviours that will form part of everything you do and you will need to be able to demonstrate them through the way you work, regardless of your role or grade within the organisation.

Full details can be found on the job website under 'Working for Dorset Council'.



Person specification

Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of demonstrating that they fulfil the following criteria in their application form and should include clear examples of how they meet these criteria. You will be assessed in some or all of the specific areas over the course of the selection process.

LEVEL 2

Essential

Essential criteria are the minimum requirement for the above post.

Qualifications/ training/registrations
Required by law, and/or essential to the performance of the role
1. Hold QCF Level 3 Diploma Health and Social Care or equivalent
2. Enhanced DBS clearance
3. Numeracy and literacy skills
4. High Quality effective recording/report writing skills
Experience
5. Experience and resilience in working with young people with complex and challenging behaviours and managing risk
6. Working flexibly across a range of settings
7. Experience of effective direct work with families
Skills, abilities & knowledge
8. Problem solving skills and the ability to find innovative solutions
9. Good communication, interpersonal and advocacy skills
10. Highly skilled in forming and maintaining relationships with young people
11. Good understanding of key childcare legislation, regulations, guidance and assessment frameworks
12. Strong Team Working Skills
13. Interagency collaboration skills



14. IT skills to effectively use systems for practice
15. Willingness to undertake on-going training
16. Excellent role model for children and young people
Behaviours
17. Responsibility
18. Respect
19. Recognition
20. One Team: Collaboration
Other
21. Ability to meet travel requirements of the post

Desirable

Desirable criteria will be used in the event of a large number of applicants meeting the minimum essential requirements.

Qualifications/ training/registrations
22. Completed All mandatory training and gained additional relevant qualifications
23. Team Teach de-escalation restraint training
24. First Aid qualification
Experience
25. Experience of working with children in a residential setting
26. Knowledge of the Directorate's policies and procedures
27. Experience of children and young people with Adverse Childhood Experiences
Skills, abilities & knowledge
28. Knowledge of the Children's Homes Regulations
29. Knowledge of the effect of ACE on development
30. Analytical skills, data collection and benchmarking
Other

Approval			
Manager		Date	

