SENDIAS Caseworker

JE Code: 2301



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| **Values – We are dedicated, respectful, collaborative, we are Milton Keynes City Council** | |
| **Service;** | MK SENDIAS Service, Children Services |
| **Reports To:** | SENDIAS Team Manager |
| **Job Family:** | Care and Welfare (CW) |
| **Grade:** | F |
| **Political Restricted:** | N |
| **Date:** | August 2023 |

**Key Deliverables**

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| **1.** | Provide direct and impartial information to parents/carers, young people and young adults via the advice line, email and face-to-face meetings. Undertake and follow up agreed actions such as discussions with schools, local authorities or other relevant agencies. There will be frequent liaison with schools and statutory and voluntary organisations. |
| **2.** | Undertake outcome focussed casework through supporting service users to express their views in meetings with local authority, schools and other profession, or in writing, tailoring support to an individual’s need to ensure equal access to the service; research and signposting to other services as necessary. |
| **3.** | Maintain positive and collaborative working relationships with all stakeholders, working in a conciliatory way to facilitate communication between all stakeholders, keeping the child/young person at the centre of the process. |
| **4.** | Ensure own knowledge and practice of SEND information is maintained and undertake such training as appropriate to enhance skills in working with children/young people with special and often complex needs. |
| **5.** | Maintain up-to-date, accurate records of all work undertaken using electronic systems in place and ensure these are accessible to team members and management at all times for continuity of service provision. |
| **6.** | Plan and deliver presentations and training to a variety of audiences to increase the value and capacity of the service. |
| **7.** | Supervise and mentor volunteers to achieve consistent, high quality support for parents/carers and young people. |

*Within reason these key deliverables may evolve to meet service need and it is expected that you will be flexible and adaptable in your delivery to meet both service and council wide needs*

**Essential Requirements (key skills & qualifications)**

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| **1.** | Educated to A-level standard or with equivalent experience. |
| **2.** | Able to demonstrate an understanding of a diverse range of legislation and policy relating to special educational needs and disability discrimination. |
| **3.** | Good knowledge of current special educational needs procedures and the current educational procedures such as exclusions, admissions and SEND-related procedures such as the statutory assessment processes leading to an education, health and care plan. |
| **4.** | Proven experience of working with children, young people and their families with additional needs and the ability to promote positive outcomes for children. Highly developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to empathise with the families of children with SEN and/or disabilities. |
| **5.** | Good analytical skills, ability to interpret documentation and to draw conclusions; and to check for accuracy and devise action plans based on results, and ability to influence and mentor others. Able to plan and deliver presentations and training to a variety of audiences. |
| **6.** | Able to use initiative and to prioritise own workload. To maintain a fast pace of work in order to meet tight deadlines, and to meet the needs of a changing caseload. Able to manage the advice line, case work and other aspects of the operational day to day service delivery. |
| **7** | Good negotiation and problem-solving skills, with the ability to stay calm in stressful situations. Able to understand and decipher complex cases. |
| **8** | Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, including excellent active listening skills. Able to develop effective working relationships with families, schools and agencies. |



Job Family

Care & Welfare

Grade F

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| **Colleagues expectations**   * Be professional at all times * Work together for the good of the team, council and local people * Promote a supportive culture * Challenge assumptions * Take ownership * Be willing to change and do things differently * Always work in a safe manner | **Managers expectations**   * Be a role model by displaying positive behaviours at all times * Make well-considered decisions * Support, coach and communicate with my team * Be accountable for my team’s performance |

# Care and Welfare family jobs have as their primary responsibility, the vulnerable members of our community who depend upon the Council for direct advice, guidance and practical assistance. They may personally carry out caring related tasks, or manage those that do, but it is personal interactions with those in our care that are at the centre of these roles.

### Role characteristics

At this level roles are front-line positions working directly with vulnerable children and adults. The roles are of two principle types;

* Jobs requiring a theoretical understanding of social work or associated disciplines but without a management or supervisory component.
* Jobs which have a significant management or supervisory responsibility with a strong technical and procedural knowledge base.

Job holders in both types will require highly developed communication and problem-solving skills to meet the demands of the service users in their care.

### The knowledge and skills required

Job holders with a theoretical understanding of social work may not have experience necessary to fulfil management or supervisory responsibilities, whereas those job holders with significant or supervisory responsibility often will, as their knowledge base will be based upon extensive direct experience in caring roles.

The knowledge underpinning the duties and responsibilities of these roles may be either a sound grounding in the theoretical basis of social work practice, achieved through formal education; leading to appropriate certification, or an equivalent level of technical and procedural knowledge of the care function in a local government environment.

Roles at this level will engage with others in assisting with physical tasks requiring some modest manual dexterity. This might include basic cooking, artwork/ other domestic and vocational activities.

### Thinking, planning and communication

Working with vulnerable children and adults presents a number of challenges including the need to swiftly and accurately assess their situation, understand their immediate welfare needs, and identify appropriate responses. A range of problems will present themselves, demanding of an equally wide range of solutions, although these will be drawn from established practice and operational guidelines.

Job holders need developed communication skills to engage at the appropriate level with service users. Two-way communications where inherent barriers exist is regularly challenging and post holders must couch their advice and persuasive messaging in terms which can be understood. These skills are likely to have been gained through specific experience and training.

**Decision making and innovation**

The procedures, approaches and techniques required to fulfil the duties of these roles may be professionally based and/or defined by internal recognised protocols, but job holders will organise their own workload in accordance with changing demands and priorities. Although independently responding to problems, some of which may not have been encountered previously. Job holders will have access to advice and assistance from team managers or supervisors when serious issues arise.

### Areas of responsibility

Job holders are responsible for the accurate and timely assessment of service user needs and the identification and delivery of appropriate care and welfare solutions under a variety of circumstances over more than a day to day timescale.

Job holders fall into two broad categories in relation to supervisory responsibilities. The first is roles which do have line management or formal supervisory accountability within their team. These job holders are generally those whose managerial authority is a result of their lengthy experience in subordinate roles.

The second category of roles owe their status to an advanced level of theoretical understanding of their discipline without necessarily having an equivalent level of experience. These roles will not generally have any formal supervisory responsibilities.

These roles are unlikely to have any financial responsibilities beyond the occasional handling of modest amounts of cash, sometimes on behalf of others.

Job holders will create and maintain work records, both written and electronic. There will, in addition, be sole or shared responsibility for the safe use and basic maintenance of a range of equipment, premises and/or vehicles.

### Impacts and demands

With the emphasis on working with others in a variety of settings, these roles will often see job holders either on their feet or engaged in activities requiring some ongoing physical effort.

Awareness of the actions of children, vulnerable adults and others will call for long periods of sensory attention. Job holders will also be required to have moderate periods of concentrated mental attention, for example when report writing or attending case meetings. Given the range of case work involved, job holders will also experience the pressures of deadlines and conflicting demands.

The nature of these roles is such that most of the client relationships which job holders are required to develop and maintain, will need them to exert greater than normal emotional resilience, with some particularly challenging service users placing intense emotional demands upon them.

Working directly with vulnerable service users will result in some exposure to disagreeable, unpleasant or hazardous environmental working conditions. This may extend to dealing with odours, intimate care and bodily fluids, and will also see job holders exposed to unpleasant or even threatening people related behaviour from time to time.