



Job description - Children's Outreach Support (x 2)

Reporting to:	Children's Team Lead
Location:	Woking, Surrey
Salary:	Circa £24,000-£26,000 pa (full time equivalent)
Working Hours:	20 hours per week (x 1) 20 hours per week term-time only (x 1)
Special Conditions:	Emergency on-call/out of hours helpline rota responsibilities (for which an additional shift allowance will be received). Post holders must live within maximum 45 minutes driving distance from our offices in Woking. This is so that occasional emergency on call rota responsibilities can be fulfilled in the event of callout to our premises to provide urgent support. Clinical supervision provided during working hours.

A full driving licence and use of a reliable car for work purposes is essential.

Please note that this job description is not a definitive list of tasks but is designed to give an overview of the role. All employees are expected to undertake reasonable additional duties as required and to understand that job descriptions develop and change over time.

Purpose of the post: To work with children (up to 16 years) who have experienced and/or witnessed domestic abuse and to provide & coordinate services that will enable them to make sense of their experiences, come to terms with their situation and develop and grow in self-esteem and confidence.

Specifically

- To assess their needs
- To build relationships with children that build trust and support them both practically and emotionally and help develop their resilience to face and manage life's challenges
- To work with them therapeutically both individually and in groups, either directly or through other appropriately qualified professionals
- To work in partnership with education and social care teams to deliver domestic abuse awareness and recovery programmes in external settings e.g. schools and children's centres

Key areas of responsibility

- To accept referrals from the Adult Outreach Service and manage your own client caseload.
- To plan, set up, develop and run therapeutic self-esteem and recovery groups for children and young people where they can express their thoughts and feelings through play, craft, drama or group discussion.
- To meet with a non-abusive parent to identify the needs of the child or young person (CYP) from their perspective.
- To consult CYP and their non-abusive parent in all aspects of the planning and running of the service
- To introduce protective behaviours strategies to children and young people
- To support and act as advocate for children and young people through court proceedings and proceedings initiated through Children's Services
- To attend and take part in regular team meetings, Children's Workers meetings and supervision sessions including fortnightly Safeguarding Supervisions.
- To contribute to the Surrey-wide Children's Worker group (within the consortium) to develop standardised practice and share best practice
- To work as part of a team offering mutual support and participating in monitoring essential services when required in partnership with the three other Surrey DA Services.
- To keep records and submit a monthly report and supply all statistics required by yourSanctuary and the management committee and/or relevant stakeholders
- To build networks and close working relationships with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary who are also working with children and young people in the area and to refer, when appropriate and work with these agencies. In particular to work with SCC Children's Social Care Services as outlined within the Service Specification.
- To keep informed on legislation and policy regarding safeguarding children, contact and residence and to ensure that this information is shared at children's workers meetings.
- To evaluate all levels of work in line with guidance supplied by funders
- To deliver and attend training as appropriate to the post
- To positively promote the service in all activities
- To incorporate equal opportunities in all work and adhere to yourSanctuary policies
- To sensitively challenge unacceptable behaviour and prejudice
- To undertake any other duties appropriate to the role in consultation with your line manager and yourSanctuary management
- To work in partnership with all other employees and volunteers of yourSanctuary.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Applicants will need to be committed to the aims & objectives of Your Sanctuary and be able to develop an understanding of domestic abuse and the needs of children & young people affected by domestic abuse.

A strong commitment to equal opportunities and the potential to understand particular needs and expectations of children from different backgrounds will be required.

A Your Sanctuary Team Worker is:

Committed to our Core Aims

Supportive

Respectful

Professional

Someone who takes responsibility

Someone who has a 'Can Do' Attitude

Essential

Knowledge and Experience

- Experience coordinating the delivery of a service working directly with children, young people (aged up to 16 years) and their families (paid or voluntary)
- Experience of working directly with children, young people (aged up to 16 years) and their families (paid or voluntary) and managing your own caseload.
- Experience of working with children and young people through a range of difficult situations and supporting them accordingly
- Experience of working therapeutically with children and young people
- Knowledge of Safeguarding Children, Child Protection legislation and legal responsibilities
- Knowledge of the Children Act 1989 and 2004, issues surrounding child contact, residence and other relevant legislation
- Understanding of, and commitment to, equal opportunities in practice

Skills and Abilities

- The ability to empower & support colleagues
- Able to work under own initiative
- Strong organisational skills
- Take responsibility for prioritising and organising own caseload
- Able to work under pressure
- Able to maintain professional boundaries
- Good communication skills: written and verbal and effective negotiation skills
- Hold a current driving licence and have access to a car
- Computer literate: word processing, email etc.
- Able and willing to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary partners
- Able to set up and run support and therapeutic groups for children and young people

Personal Qualities

- Proactive
- Compassionate and non-judgmental
- Willingness and commitment to undertake regular training and qualifications deemed relevant to the role
- Ability to work as part of a team and motivate others

Other

- Be prepared to deliver training and awareness raising presentations to other statutory and voluntary agencies and professionals with the support of your line manager
- Be prepared to undertake flexible working when required to fulfil the responsibilities of the role
- Be able and willing to produce monthly activity reports for the Trustees and management team and work with line managers to ensure specific projects are delivered on time and within budget

Desirable

- Awareness of domestic abuse and its effect on children & young people
- Experience of planning a programme of activities for children and young people
- Understanding of attachment-based practice, neuro science, and protective behaviour strategies.
- Experience of working within an ethical framework.

It is important that the post holder has the required personal attributes and holds values and ethics in line with those held by the organisation; therefore an applicant with the willingness to learn and be flexible may still be considered if they have qualities which do not directly match all of the above criteria.

Please note that Your Sanctuary will require an Enhanced DBS check for this post and candidates must also satisfy the interview panel that they have an objective distance from any personal experience of violence/abuse.