

Kent County Council

Job Description: *Personal Advisor (Housing Specialist) 18+ Care Leaver Service*

Directorate:	Children, Young People and Education
Unit/Section:	18+ Care Leaver Service, Specialist Children's Services
Grade:	KR8
Responsible to:	Service Manager for Transition

Purpose of the Job:

The Personal Advisor will support a caseload of Care Leavers who have enhanced or standard levels of need within the 18+ Care Leaver service with a focus on those at risk of homelessness.

The role will require the post holder to provide assistance, advice, encouragement and support to Care Leavers to ensure they actively participate and contribute to their Pathway Planning process to enable them to move successfully into independent living. This role will focus on those Care Leavers at high risk and hard to reach.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Provide individual, regular and consistent support to Care Leavers who have recently left care, to meet the goals and objectives of the Care Leaver's Pathway Plan. Undertake ongoing assessments of Care Leaver's needs to ensure that their Pathway Plan continues to meet their needs. Ensure that this process enables KCC to meet its obligations to the Care Leaver under the Children Act 1989 and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.
- Work closely with colleagues in the Children in Care teams to ensure successful transfer of young people between the services. Work with other colleagues in the 18+ service to ensure the provision of a seamless service to the Care Leaver
- Encourage and ensure Care Leavers actively participate and contribute to their Pathway Planning process thereby facilitating their transition to adulthood and independence. Encourage Care Leavers to play an active part in their local communities, liaising with community groups and individuals to aid transition
- Coordinate programmes of education, training and support to individual Care Leavers as part of their Pathway Plan, updating the Plan in consultation with the Care Leaver when required. Notification of changes to the Plan must be communicated and, where appropriate, agreed with the Care Leaver's support network.

- Liaise with other local authorities when a Care Leaver is residing outside of Kent to ensure Pathway Plans are updated and reviewed in line with Kent policy and procedures for Leaving Care services.
- Using a multi-agency approach, develop close and effective working relationships with key area agencies and partners to facilitate a planned and coordinated multi-agency area based response to the identified needs of Care Leavers.
- Ensure that information systems and client records are effectively maintained in order to provide up-to-date and accurate information, upon which decisions affecting service delivery can be made.
- Have a good understanding of the financial entitlements available to Care Leavers and ensure accurate and timely requests for financial assistance are submitted to the Team Manager as appropriate in line with Leaving Care Procedures, ensuring that expenditure remains within the specified limits.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what his/her main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

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Person Specification: *Personal Advisor 18+ Care Leaver Service*

The following outlines the Minimum and Desirable criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the minimum criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	MINIMUM
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 3 Diploma in a relevant subject, for example, education, training, guidance, counselling, youth and community work, health or social service work or work in the voluntary sector
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience of working in health or social care• Experience of multi-agency working• Experience of developing young person-centered plans and strategies• Experience of working with district councils regarding accommodation for vulnerable people• Experience of face-to-face work with Care Leavers in a formal or informal setting.• Experience of working with Care Leavers from a diverse range of backgrounds or specialist knowledge of the needs of Care Leaver from particular groups.
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to work effectively with others, co-operate with colleagues and help the team to achieve its goals• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills• Ability to adopt a flexible approach in managing conflicting demands• A firm grasp of Equal Opportunities issues• Good level of oral and written communication and presentational skills• Ability to reflect constructively on past experience as a means of understanding Care Leaver's development• Ability to work sensitively within a variety of contexts and adapt the way you work as appropriate• Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office and other key computer systems
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working knowledge of The Children Act 1989 and 2004, Children's (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children's and Families Act 2014• A thorough grasp of the issues affecting Care Leavers• Knowledge of accommodation processes for Care Leavers• Understanding of the needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people, and the associated processes
BEHAVIOURS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat people fairly and with respect• Put the interests and wellbeing of customers first• Focused on outcomes