

Job Description

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Job Title | Devon Safeguarding Children's Board Independent Scrutineer |
| Location | Subject to discussion |
| Remuneration | £500 per day over 30 Days a year |
| Term | 1 year |
| Reports to: | DCFP Chair of the Partnership and Statutory Partners |
| Effective date of JD | December 2021 |

Job Purpose

Analyse, Scrutinise and Report.

- Challenge and support the Statutory Partners in bringing about change that delivers on the vision for children across Devon
- Bring robust challenge to safeguarding issues, practice, policy, procedures and systems, that ensure the quality and effectiveness single-agency and multi-agency work to respond to the needs of children and families.
- Whole system change, that puts children and young people at the heart of the partnership, to respond to need and achieve better outcomes for children by understanding lived experiences and lessons from practice reviews to strengthen families and safeguard and promote children's welfare.
- Important national and local safeguarding matters to ensure the partnership formulates an appropriate response when required.
- The quality assurance function of the Partnership to ensure partners fulfil their statutory and legal requirements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Devon.
- That organisations collaborate successfully and work in partnership to effectively safeguard children in Devon.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. Promoting a learning system which ensures that practice continually improves through quality assurance, serious case review and training activities and holding organisations and the partnership to account.
2. Providing assurance that the voice and experience of children and young people, is central to all of the activity undertaken within the Partnership.
3. Offering an independent review of any escalated concern raised by relevant agencies or on behalf of children and families when requested by the statutory partners.
4. Conducting line of sight activity across the Partnership arrangements in order to achieve overall assurance of local and regional systems for safeguarding children and young people.
5. Contributing to and supporting the writing of Partnership's annual report: what has been done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements; the activity undertaken, including on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice, as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018).
6. Offering professional challenge to the decision-making of key partners and relevant agencies across the Partnership, including the three statutory safeguarding partners.

7. Act as a critical friend to promote reflection and drive continuous improvement in the outcomes for children and young people in Devon.
8. Ensure that any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other review activities are undertaken rigorously; are consistent with guidance; that lessons are effectively communicated; and that associated action plans are clear and SMART to deliver sustained improved outcomes for children.
9. Being aware of relevant national learning and publications and ensuring the Partnership is making best use of this to improve outcomes for children and young people.
10. In exceptional circumstances, offer mediation to the three statutory safeguarding partners through three-way contact with the Chief Executive/Chief Accountable Officer/Chief Constable in dealing with any key areas of disagreement once all agency lines of accountability have been pursued.
11. Facilitate partnership ownership and oversight of the performance of the DSCB and its constituent parts, including sub-groups.
12. Ensure commitment translate into purposeful action improving safeguarding outcomes for children.
13. Ensure that there are effective performance management and quality assurance systems in place for the DSCB to scrutinise and challenge services; oversee the implementation of multi-agency work and ensure that recommendations are implemented by the multi-agency partners.
14. Scrutinise that the Partnership commissions and/or delivers effective fit for purpose multi-agency training that is focused on key safeguarding priorities for the multi-agency partnership across Devon.
15. Provide regular reports on the work of the partnership to the appropriate forums.
16. Support the work of the partnership within a framework that respects diversity, challenges discrimination, and promotes equality.

Person specification:

| Attribute | Essential | Desirable | Method of Assessment |
|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Qualifications | Academic and / or professional qualification in a relevant discipline (e.g. social care, education, legal, policing, health, public policy) | Previous experience safeguarding partnerships under WT2018 | Application & Interview |
| Work Experience | <p>Experience of leadership and strategic management at a senior level within the public sector or voluntary sector.</p> <p>Experience of effectively and efficiently chairing complex professional meetings at a senior level.</p> <p>Experience of delivering strategies, policies and plans within the public sector that have led to improved outcomes.</p> <p>Experience of managing resources.</p> <p>Experience of challenging multi-agency and multi-professional partnerships.</p> | | Application & Interview |
| Knowledge, skills and abilities | <p>Knowledge and understanding of legislation, statutory frameworks, national policy and inspection frameworks relevant to safeguarding and multi-agency working.</p> <p>Ability to foster and develop effective working relationships within and between agencies</p> <p>In depth knowledge of legislation, guidance and research in relation to safeguarding.</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a positive, credible public and professional profile.</p> <p>Personal confidence, authority and ability to effectively challenge agencies in the event that performance falls below expectations or to improve safeguarding practices.</p> <p>A proven track record of leading the delivery of service/users and carers across a complex organisational system(s)</p> <p>Ability to recognise the distinction between the statutory partners responsibilities and those of partner agencies and maintain independence.</p> <p>Strong understanding of practice, supervision and leadership in Early Help, Evidenced based practice and child safeguarding.</p> | <p>Knowledge of the broader children's agenda encompassing all key outcomes</p> <p>Knowledge of the work, responsibilities of key statutory agencies.</p> | Application & Interview |
| Equal Opportunities | <p>Partner agencies and their staff have a Statutory obligation to implement anti-discriminatory and equal opportunities when carrying out their duties</p> <p>A demonstrable commitment to implement anti-discriminatory and equal opportunities/diversity in all aspects of practice/working activity.</p> | | Demonstrate knowledge at Interview |
| Physical | Able to carry out the duties of the post with reasonable adjustments where necessary | | OH1 |