



Coventry City Council

## Job Description

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| <b>Post:</b>     | Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) Personal Adviser and Liaison Officer | <b>Job Number:</b>  |   |
| <b>Service:</b>  | Through Care  | <b>Post Number:</b> |   |
| <b>Location:</b> | Broadgate House, Coventry, CV1 1FS  | <b>Grade:</b>       | 5 |

### Our values:

We expect everyone who works for us to be committed to our One Coventry values and to share our commitment to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation.

### Job Purpose:

At all times, to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and care leavers who live or access services in, or who are looked after by, Coventry City Council.

Working as part of a children looked after and care leaving service with social workers and professionals to deliver a high quality and effective service. A particular focus on supporting and improving outcomes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and young people.

To act as a personal Adviser to a specified number of young people and be their first point of contact, with responsibility for providing flexible support and advice when they are preparing and planning to leave care, and throughout their transition to adulthood when they access the aftercare service.

To provide care, support and guidance to children in care and care leavers (up to age 25 years) and enable them to develop the life skills and confidence to live independent adult lives.

The role would also require close liaison and support to social workers and other agencies. Liaison with local UASC support services, the Home Office, Legal Advisers as necessary to ensure positive outcomes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and care leavers and input into the UASC policy.

To advise line manager of any unmet needs, service deficits, resource implications and unresolved issues.

To work within the framework of legislation, departmental policies and procedures.

To work within the budgetary and resource constraints applicable.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To provide direct support, within a flexible approach to the time that a service is delivered, to unaccompanied asylum seeker children and young people preparing to leave care and to support them in gaining their independence within the community.
2. To hold case responsibility for young people aged 16 -25 who have left care in relation to the management and review of their individual pathway plans.
3. Develop and maintain a full understanding of government initiatives to help young people entitled to After-Care services to make informed choices on the range of learning and employment opportunities available to them.
4. To develop relationships with all professionals working within key organisations and agencies, and also to advocate for and on behalf of care leavers to ensure they receive appropriate services.
5. To provide information on/liaise with other agencies and organisations to develop/build on young people's community support networks.
6. To maintain accurate written records and files in line with CCC IT systems and Data Protection/Information Governance policies.
7. Contribute to the collation of management information by ensuring that information is recorded accurately and promptly on our database to allow monitoring progress towards targets.
8. To attend strategy meeting/child protection conferences, family group/support conferences, reviews and planning meetings when necessary.
9. To build links in the community so UASC receive information about services they can access locally in the city. A key element of the programme will be to work with community groups to embed this work in the local community so it is sustainable.
10. Coordination of UASC drop-in sessions to provide young people with support and advice with issues that affect them and an opportunity to network with other young people. This will include support with applications for leave to remain and development of independence skills such as budgeting, cooking, managing a tenancy.
11. Group work will be delivered to focus on key issues such as the health needs of young people and to encourage them to remain/ return to education or training.
12. Co-ordinate and minute regular multi-agency UASC panel. The role of the panel will be to ensure that the correct reporting for the Home Office is being carried out, that all UASC are getting the required support and services.
13. Co-ordinate weekly UASC legal sessions.
14. To liaise with UASC to ensure that the correct applications are with the Home Office and applications are made within timescales.

15. To pro-actively support UASC directly and through Social workers to ensure they access benefits that they are entitled to as soon after they are in receipt of recourse to public funds
16. To feed into local UASC policy to ensure that the Local Authority has fulfilled its corporate parenting duties.
17. To maintain an overview of young people who are UASC. Support social workers in identifying necessary training and support opportunities.
18. To ensure weekly data is sent to UASC administration team in respect of any new UASC.
19. To have a good working knowledge of the Age assessment process and Merton Compliance to be able to assist and advise Social Workers and Personal Advisers.
20. Input and retrieve data from the service areas designated ICT systems to assist with the collation, monitoring and reporting of statistical information for the purposes of performance management, returns to Central Government and information for other agencies including those internal to the organisation as appropriate.
21. Maintain detailed knowledge of all relevant legislation, statutory guidance and case law relating to housing, issues concerned with housing, and corporate parenting responsibility. Apply this knowledge to the duties in this post.
22. Attend Training courses as required
23. Any other duties and responsibilities within the range of the salary grade.

The post holder must comply with Coventry City Council's health and safety policy and in particular is required:-

- To take reasonable care for their own health and safety at work and of those who may be affected by their actions or by their omissions
- To cooperate with their line manager and senior management, to work safely, to comply with health and safety instructions and information and undertake appropriate health and safety training as required
- Not to intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare
- To report to their manager any health and safety concerns, hazardous condition or defect in the health and safety arrangements.

**Any further Health and Safety responsibilities relevant to this post will be set out in the offer letter and Written Statement of Particulars**

The post holder must comply with the Interagency procedures of the Safeguarding Boards and Coventry City Council's policies for safeguarding children and safeguarding adults and in particular is required:-

- To ensure they are aware of the signs that may suggest a child or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected
- To report to their manager, or other appropriate manager, any concerns they may have that suggest that a child or vulnerable adult may be being abused or neglected immediately

**Any further Safeguarding Board responsibilities relevant to this post will be set out in the offer letter and Written Statement of Particulars**

Post holders will be accountable for carrying out all duties and responsibilities with due regard to the City Council's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Duties which include processing of any personal data must be undertaken within the corporate data protection guidelines.

**Responsible for:**

**Responsible to:**

**Date Reviewed:** 09.10.2021

**Updated:**



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## Person Specification

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| Area | Description |
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| <b>Knowledge:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Knowledge of Immigration and Nationality Policy for Asylum Seekers, Coventry UASC policy and procedures, Human Rights Act 2000 and other related legislation/ Government Guidance relating to unaccompanied asylum seeking children</li></ul>   |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A working knowledge of the range of issues that care leavers might expect to face as they make their transition to adulthood and the legal framework affecting care leavers (in particular the 1989 Act and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and related Regulations e.g. Vol. 3 planning transition to adulthood)</li><li>Knowledge of Age Assessment Guidance and Information Sharing Guidance for UASC and Merton Compliance</li><li>A working knowledge of the National Transfer Scheme Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</li><li>A working knowledge of the range of issues that unaccompanied asylum seeking children might expect to face and the legal framework (in particular the 1989 Children Act and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000</li><li>Knowledge of the range of services provide by colleagues; teams and other organisations for unaccompanied asylum seeking children</li><li>Equal opportunities policies and how to provide services that are sensitive and relevant to all service users</li></ul> |

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| <b>Skills and Abilities:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Written skills to write concise and accurate case notes, reports and correspondence</li><li>Able to form positive working relationships with other agencies and professional supporting young people.</li><li>Communication skills to communicate with a wide variety of audiences (e.g. care leavers; housing providers; support agencies) using a variety of resources</li><li>Problem solving, investigative and analytical skills to be able to analyse and act on information provided</li><li>Influencing and organisational skills – the ability to get the required information from looked after children and Care leavers in a timely fashion</li></ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisational and administrative skills to be able to plan, prioritise and organise workload and meet deadlines when working under pressure.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to work flexibly across all functions of the service, where demand dictates</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent skills and abilities in team working and working with other colleagues and partner organisations</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT skills in using standard software provided (word; excel; office etc) and skills in inputting and retrieving data accurately to the teams ICT systems.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to form positive working relationships with other agencies and professional supporting young people.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentational and training skills</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to travel around the city</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to engage with finance management issues with young people and it will be necessary handle cash/purchasing cards to support with purchasing certain items within CCC procurement guidelines.</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets, agrees and delivers on objectives and able to plan their workload</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good assessment skills and ability to analyse and process information</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Experience:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of working successfully with young people who are in care, or have a care history who may present with a range of needs and may participate in risk taking behaviours.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Educational:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul> |
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| <b>Special Requirements:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such appointment to this post will be conditional upon the receipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)</li> </ul> |
|                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some evening and weekend work may be required</li> </ul>  |

**Date Reviewed:** 09.07.2021

**Updated:**