

Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (EL828)



Cheshire College
South & West

Job Description

Area	: Learning and Learner Services
Salary	: £29,838 - £32,579 (per annum)
Hours of Work (Full-time/Part-time)	: 37 hours per week
Line Manager	: Safeguarding and Welfare Team Leader
Responsibility for	: Co-ordinating & providing support for learners where safeguarding & welfare concerns are raised; : Supporting and monitoring a caseload of vulnerable learners and attending meetings with external agencies; <i>and</i> : Promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Main Purpose of Job:

Supporting learners to achieve and progress by removing the barriers to learning. Enabling vulnerable learners (*those with an identified Social Worker*) and those with mental health and/or welfare support needs to have the same opportunities for success as other learners, providing a supportive link between the learners, the Personal Development Tutors, their curriculum areas and external agencies. Attend a range of meetings including Personal Education and Employment Meetings (*for Cared for Learners*), Early Help meetings, Team Around the Family, Child in Need and Child Protection meetings.

- Meets the needs of learners, employers and other stakeholders;
- Is of the highest possible quality in terms of learner outcomes and learner/employer satisfaction;
- Is effective, efficient and provides excellent value for money;
- Reflects the vision, mission, aims and values of the College;
- Is innovative, developmental and sector leading; *and*
- Promotes a culture of excellence and equality.

The post-holder will be a member of the Learner Services department and a member of the Safeguarding Team.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Carry out the role at the designated campus and be willing to travel to other locations/campuses as the role requires (infrequently).
2. Be an active member of the College's Be Safe Team and respond appropriately to safeguarding disclosures and concerns (which can include serious concerns) which relate to the welfare and well-being of students in a timely manner.
3. Support other members of the Be Safe Team to respond to disclosures/concerns.
4. Make timely referrals to a range of agencies, including Cheshire West Children's Social Care, Early Help and Safeguarding Hub, in order to appropriately safeguard and support learners.

5. Complete assessment tools as and when requested to do so by the Local Authority.
6. Produce reports for Personal Education Plan, Early Help, Child in Need and Child Protection meetings.
7. Ensure safeguarding records are accurately maintained, monitored and reviewed.
8. Provide mental health support / mental health first aid to learners with mental health concerns and/or support needs (including those with serious concerns).
9. Improve, monitor and record the educational attainment of vulnerable and safeguarded learners and those who are cared for (*including unaccompanied asylum seekers*).
10. Establish excellent relationships and agree working methods with the Virtual School and local authorities.
11. Develop respectful trusting relationships with learners who are cared for, their carers and support agencies.
12. Provide local authorities and the Virtual School with accurate and timely information on the recruitment, enrolment, attendance, retention, progress and progression of safeguarded and cared for learners (including unaccompanied asylum seekers).
13. Assist in the transition and induction of cared for applicants, ensuring their integration to their study programme is effectively supported.
14. Initiate the review process for learners with electronic Personal Education Plans (*ePEPs*), ensuring compliance with statutory timelines, linking in with curriculum staff across the College and external agencies as required.
15. Attend meetings with the Local Authority for learners who are safeguarded (those with Child Protection Plans, Child in Need Plans and Team Around the Family).
16. Schedule and chair ePEP reviews, reviewing outcomes as dictated by learners' progress, needs and aspirations.
17. Coordinate and facilitate transitional support for vulnerable learners.
18. Access the college systems for learner information and regularly check for updates.
19. Ensure all documentation is to the advised format and quality and that records are maintained in accordance with GDPR requirements.
20. Support the delivery and development of a range of events, strategies and training programmes to increase understanding of the areas of mental health across the College.
21. Work in a Trauma Informed way to best support learners.
22. Attend team meetings as required.
23. Support college activities such as open evenings, that will involve occasional evening work.
24. Manage own calendar to ensure effective time management.
25. Support and reinforce all cross-college policies.

Generic Duties and Responsibilities:

26. Promote a culture of innovation, excellence and equality.
27. Reflect the vision, mission and values of the College.
28. Manage all delegated resources and budgets flexibly and efficiently in accordance with allocation.
29. Contribute to the development of and ensure compliance with all College policies, procedures and agreements.
30. To actively contribute to the risk management of the College.
31. To positively promote and implement the College's strategies on equality, diversity, inclusion and safeguarding.
32. Undertake appropriate staff development activities that support personal development and the changing needs of the College and its environment.
33. Be aware of, and responsive to, the changing nature of the College and adopt a flexible and proactive approach to work.
34. Undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required commensurate with this grade, at the initial agreed place of work or at other locations in the College catchment area.

This Job Description is current as the date shown. In consultation with the post-holder, it is liable to variation to reflect changes in the job.

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Person Specification



Cheshire College
South & West

	Assessment Method					
	Application Form	*Test	Interview	Psychometric Testing	Qualification Certificates	References
*Test = Skills Test/Knowledge Test/Micro Teach/Presentation						
Education and Qualifications						
<u>Essential</u>						
• Level 4 or equivalent qualification	✓				✓	
• GCSE Grade C (4/5) in English and Maths or equivalent	✓				✓	
• Evidence of relevant continuous professional development that includes mental health	✓		✓			
• Level 3 Safeguarding qualification (<i>or willingness to achieve</i>)	✓		✓		✓	
<u>Desirable</u>						
• Qualification in mental health	✓				✓	
Skills and Experience						
<u>Essential</u>						
• Experience of working in a supportive environment	✓		✓			
• Experience of working and communicating effectively with people with mental health support needs	✓	✓	✓			✓
• Ability to work with empathy and sensitivity whilst maintaining own emotional resilience	✓	✓	✓			
• Ability to develop relationships with learners, staff and parent/carers	✓		✓			✓
• Ability to develop and maintain professional relationships with external agencies	✓		✓			
• Excellent working knowledge of Safeguarding procedures	✓	✓	✓			
• Ability to keep matters confidential and refer to external services when appropriate	✓	✓	✓			
• Ability to work effectively with a wider staff team	✓		✓			✓
• Ability to carry out administrative duties effectively	✓		✓			
• Ability to produce accurate reports for external agencies in a timely manner	✓		✓			
• Understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion in working and learning environments	✓		✓			

• Ability to promote learning and opportunity for all	✓		✓			
• Excellent digital literacy skills	✓		✓			
<u>Desirable</u>						
• Experience of working in a mentoring/counselling capacity	✓		✓			
• Experience of liaising with external mental health support services	✓		✓			
• Experience of making external safeguarding referrals	✓		✓			
Personal Attributes						
<u>Essential</u>						
• Excellent interpersonal and communication skills	✓		✓			✓
• Excellent organisational skills	✓		✓			✓
• Excellent team-working skills	✓		✓			✓
• Effective influencing skills	✓		✓			
• Ability to communicate effectively	✓		✓			✓
• Ability to prioritise, work under pressure and to meet deadlines	✓		✓			
• Ability to use own initiative and work with minimum supervision	✓		✓			
• Flexibility to work across different locations	✓		✓			
Other requirements for employment/engagement						
<u>Essential</u>						
• Enhanced DBS check						