

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Advanced Practitioner		
Directorate	Children's & Families		
Reporting to			
Grade	9		
Evaluation ref:	AG0612	Job Family ref:	
Role Purpose			
The Advanced Practitioner plays a key role within Somerset Council's countywide Preventing Exploitation Team, working to safeguard young people at risk of Child Exploitation through the Risk Outside the Home pathway. The postholder will hold a small but complex caseload, providing advanced social work oversight, high-quality assessment, and outcome-focused interventions. They will supervise Preventing Exploitation Support Workers, offering regular supervision, workload allocation, and ongoing professional guidance to ensure effective and safe practice. The role also provides specialist Child Exploitation consultation to the wider service, supporting colleagues in managing risk and improving outcomes for children and families. Operating within a multi-agency environment, the Advanced Practitioner represents the council in meetings with partners such as Police, Health, and Education—driving effective collaboration, influencing practice, and contributing to strategic responses to exploitation. The postholder will support the wider Preventing Exploitation Team and deputise for the Team Manager when required, ensuring continuity of leadership and maintaining a high standard of service delivery.			
Accountabilities			
Children's Services Function The responsibility of the Children's Services Function is to promote and ensure the safety, well-being and learning of children and young people. Within the Service, Children and Young People's Social Care Team provide services to "Children in Need", children subject to Child Protection Plans, Children "Looked After" and Care Leavers. Many of these roles operate through "multi-agency" teams. Advanced Practitioners will work in accordance with professional standards (as set by Social Work England) and will undertake all or any of the elements of the Assignment as described below: - Act as the lead professional for the more serious/complex cases and offer high level professional and statutory advice to other Social Workers. Undertake advanced assessments within their field identifying and providing detailed outcome focused analysis of the main issues including risk and needs in relation to service users and carers so that, within relevant legislation, appropriate action is taken, monitored and reviewed effectively. Specific responsibilities and			

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duties relate to Permanence, Child Protection, legal work, Children Looked After, Fostering and Adoption, etc.

Operate with a significant degree of professional independence and demonstrate competence through CPD and achievement of appropriate post qualification awards.

Although working within a specialist field (i.e. Safeguarding, Assessment, Fostering, Adoption, CLA) an Advanced Practitioner will be expected to move between specialism as required and with appropriate initial support.

Manage a workload within the designated function of complex and challenging cases with knowledge, skills and sensitivity or cases of sufficient risk and profile to warrant an experienced worker to work solely on it.

Have an increased level of autonomy and decision making, based on experience and knowledge around the cases allocated. Will report to the relevant manager on the progress of these cases.

Chair appropriate meetings to ensure the effective review of plans and make any necessary amendments to ensure the quality of care required. Will be expected to identify and specify the need for immediate and future changes to improve practice wherever necessary.

Act as Practice Educator to at least one social work student on placement a year to ensure dissemination and acquisition of learning and that the students meet the required standards of practice. Able to model and facilitate reflective practice.

Maintain performance and develop practice and expertise in line with personal targets as agreed through supervision and annual review.

Contribute to the achievement of Key Performance Indicators identified through service planning.

Work to the prescribed quality standards for service provision set out by the service for all workers and participate as required in any review of quality standards or professional practice in the postholders area of expertise.

Understand, uphold and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		

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Offer a high level of professional and statutory advice to other professionals, which includes support with complex cases.	X	
Strong understanding of child safeguarding legislation, risk outside the home pathways, and Child Exploitation frameworks.	X	
Thorough knowledge of multi-agency working, information-sharing protocols, and escalation procedures.	X	
Awareness of current national and regional developments in Child Exploitation and contextual safeguarding.		X
Experience		
Experience of supervising others; for example, manager of a team, students or experience of supporting others from shadowing.	X	
Experience of supporting young people and their families at risk of Child Exploitation.	X	
Demonstrable experience of partnership working, including the ability to influence and, where required, lead multi-agency projects and initiatives.	X	
Experience managing complex, high-risk caseloads requiring advanced professional judgement.	X	
Experience deputising for a team manager or providing, at times, leadership within a specialist team.		X
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
Advanced Practitioner qualified and registered with the appropriate professional body (e.g., Social Work England).	X	
Additional post-qualifying awards relevant to safeguarding, exploitation, or specialist social work practice.		X
Skills		

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Sound communication skills, ability to chair multi-agency meetings and confidence to professionally challenge if needed.	X	
Ability to produce high-quality assessments, demonstrating analytical thinking, outcome-focused planning, and sound professional rationale.	X	
Ability to work independently, demonstrating high levels of professional autonomy and decision-making.	X	
Strong ability to build effective relationships with young people, families, and partner agencies.	X	
Competence in reflective practice, including acting as a Practice Educator for social work students.	X	
Ability to contribute to service development and quality improvement activities.		X
Working Conditions		
Dimensions of the role		
Working Arrangements		
Somerset Council's Dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.		
Corporate Accountabilities		
Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise. Deliver the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.		



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Date: