

Job Description

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| Job title | Project worker – Educationalist |
| Accountable to | Senior Project Social Worker |
| Objectives | * To work with foster carers, teachers and social workers to build capacity knowledge, skills and confidence to improve educational outcomes for looked after children; improve school readiness, enhance ability to learn, support educational pathways, help overcome educational deficits and promote resilience and economic wellbeing. * With the Head of Operations and the Senior Project Social Worker work to an agreed set of actions to provide educational support and resources, including direct delivery of services to looked after children and their foster carers. * To support foster carers in their role to nurture each child’s potential, promote educational experience and encourage learning and educational attainment and achievement. * To work with foster carers to build capacity to understand the importance of education for looked after children in improving outcomes through provision of training, awareness raising and one to one support. |
| Hours per week | 36 |
| Location | Unit 10, 40 Montgomery Road Belfast |
| Status | Fixed term contract until end March 2022 |
| Disclosure required?  (The post involves contact with children and/or access to confidential information about children and families) | Yes |

## Responsibilities and accountabilities

1. Provide training and support to foster carers to raise their awareness of the educational needs of children in foster care and to help them understand how pre-care experiences impact a child’s capacity to learn;
2. Provide training, information and direct support to raise awareness of the full range of educational services available in Northern Ireland;
3. Provide one to one support and advice to foster carers on all aspects of education for Looked After Children including preparation/attendance at LAC reviews/PEP meetings/meetings with Schools etc;
4. Assisting in the recruitment, design and delivery of content and service provision including leading programmes with young people and foster carers;
5. Within designated Health and Social Trust areas act as a first point of contact for advice and information on how to access the service and develop effective working relationships with social services and educational personnel;
6. Ensuring effective project administration in line with The Fostering Network’s internal protocols and policies, including by inputting data on programme delivery to support the Head of Operations in reporting to external funders;
7. Design and deliver content of educational support materials for foster carers.

## Management

*None*

## Budget

## None

## General statement

It is the nature of The Fostering Network that tasks and responsibilities are in many circumstances unpredictable and varied. All employees are therefore expected to work in a flexible way when the occasion arises and undertake tasks that are not specifically covered in their job description.

Person Specification

## Our Values

As an organisation, we believe that we make a difference to foster care and our people values are expressed in the work that we do:

We are TRUSTED

We are TOGETHER

We are VITAL

## Knowledge and Experience

## Essential

* Knowledge of the NI educational system
* Knowledge of interventions which meet the educational needs of looked after children;
* Experience of providing coaching/support/training;
* Knowledge/experience of providing ‘customer care’;
* Experience of working independently to meet predetermined targets and deadlines.

**Desirable**

* Experience and knowledge of working within the NI educational system

## Skills and abilities

## Essential

* Excellent interpersonal skills, including good presentation skills and excellent oral and written communication skills;
* Self-motivated with the ability to prioritise, plan and undertake work in an effective manner, with the minimum of supervision;
* Demonstrate the ability to work with key stakeholders at all levels including fostering services, foster carers and care experience young people;
* Ability to work effectively within a team, by demonstrating cooperation and flexibility;
* Ability to develop and deliver interactive training sessions;
* Good IT skills, including Microsoft Office and database programmes;
* Ability to handle confidential information in a professional manner;
* Ability to develop and deliver content to meet the service requirements training sessions;
* Training and group work skills, ability to advocate;
* Ability to think creatively and work with team members to design and deliver agreed interventions;
* Have a good understanding of issues relating to foster care, education and looked after children;
* Ability to work outside of normal working hours if and when required, including evenings and weekends and occasional residentials;
* Willingness to travel throughout Northern Ireland;
* Access to transport for the purposes of meeting the travel requirements.

**Desirable**

* Experience of designing and delivering accredited training

**Qualifications**

**Essential**

* Third level qualification in youthwork or education

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## Additional Information

**Pay and conditions of service**

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| Band | The Fostering Network Band 5 |
| Salary | £22,138 – £33,206 |
| Annual Leave | 25 Days plus 5 Fostering Network days |
| Probationary period | 6 calendar months. |
| Notice period | 4 working weeks  One week during probationary period. |
| Hours of work | 36 per week |
| Pension | Optional. Money-purchase scheme and salary sacrifice option is available with AEGON:  Employee contribution is 3% of gross annual salary  Employer contribution is 5% of gross salary. |
| Season Ticket Loan | An interest free season ticket loan is available to all staff immediately. |
| Trade Union | The Fostering Network recognises the trade union Unite  and members of staff can join if they wish. |

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