

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN – PARENT LIAISON OFFICER

Job Title:	Parent Liaison Officer
Responsible to:	Head of Parent Services
Hours of work:	22.5 including the occasional evenings and weekends
Location:	Blackburn with Darwen
Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actual Salary - £19,504• Holidays/entitlement: 25 days (pro rata), plus 3 days between Christmas and New Year, plus bank holidays• Pension scheme 8% employer's contribution from April 2020.• Extensive training package

ROLE

You will work with multi-agency partners tackling child exploitation as an independent source of support and contact for parents whose children are being sexually and criminally exploited external to the family, liaising between statutory agencies and families in order to maximise the ability of all parties to safeguard a child at risk of/or being sexually and criminally exploited.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To work with multi-agency partners, attend team briefings, and take on referrals of parents whose children are at risk of/or are being sexually and criminally exploited.
2. To form and maintain professional, supportive, empowering relationships with the parents/carers affected by child sexual exploitation.
3. To liaise on behalf of individual parents/carers.
4. To maintain good professional practice and ensure ongoing development, through use of supervision and training.
5. To establish, maintain and develop good working relations with professionals and organisations both statutory and voluntary.
6. To adhere to Iverson Trust policies including equal opportunities and diversity.
7. To challenge prejudice towards families affected by sexual and criminal exploitation within the wider community through talks etc.
8. To advise other professionals of good practice issues related to working with parents/carers of sexually exploited young people.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

1. Work with parents affected by child sexual and criminal exploitation

1. To work with multi-agency partners, attend team briefings, and take on referrals of parents whose children are at risk of/or are being sexually /criminally exploited.
2. To work with parents to ascertain the level of appropriate emotional and practical support they require.
3. To form and maintain supportive, empowering relationships with the parents affected by CCE/CSE to build their self-esteem, confidence, knowledge and resilience to enable them to maintain the family unit and effectively safeguard their child. To acknowledge and respect the crucial role in safeguarding that they bring.
4. To equip parents with information and understanding of the processes by which children and young people are groomed and coerced into exploitation.
5. To provide information to parents about the roles of safeguarding practitioners and keep them abreast of the response to their case where appropriate.
6. To act as a bridge between the agencies and parents, taking on an advocacy role for individual parents with services, and feeding back information from parents into the team where this is appropriate.
7. To give support and information to families going through the judicial process, from referral of their case to the Crown Prosecution Service through to post-trial re-adjustment.
8. To respond appropriately and effectively to any child protection/safeguarding concerns as and when they arise.
9. To participate in Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Team Around the Child (TAC), child protection and other formal support processes for parents/carers when required.
10. Link parents/carers and where necessary, other family members, into services and support appropriate to their needs (i.e. health services, training, positive activities, counselling).
11. Link parents /carers to Iverson Trust support networks including the volunteer befriending programme, the online forum, Parent Network Days, and the opportunity to contribute to policy consultations or Iverson Trust events as appropriate.
12. To fulfil targets and objectives agreed by Iverson Trust and the Engage Team.

2. External relations, training and networking

1. To promote and maintain good public relations with local partner agencies on behalf of Iverson Trust.
2. To attend relevant forums and meetings as appropriate.
3. To liaise with appropriate professionals and organisations and work collaboratively to establish a network of support for parents/carers.
4. To undertake talks, develop and deliver training to professional groups, voluntary and statutory agencies and other appropriate groups.
5. To promote an understanding of the needs of parents/carers of sexually and criminally exploited children within the wider community.
6. To develop and deliver a programme of preventative education for parents/carers in partnership with Engage partners and other agencies.

3. Professional practice and development

1. To participate in regular line-management supervision and annual appraisal with the Head of Parent Services at Iverson Trust, and peer mentoring from other Iverson Trust co-located staff.
2. To maintain effective data inputting and information management procedures for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation.
3. To undertake and write up risk assessments, maintaining accurate records and preparing reports.
4. To participate in case review and monitoring and evaluation meetings and providing information as required.
5. Consulting with parents/carers on the effectiveness of the services and involving them in planning changes and the development of new programmes etc.
6. To uphold client confidentiality as per guidelines.
7. To keep up to date with research and practice and undertake regular training to maintain and develop the skills and knowledge necessary for this post, in agreement with the Head of Parent Services at Iverson Trust.
8. To participate in occasional national work of Iverson Trust - for example, research, policy consultations, training delivery - in order to maintain professional development and ethos around parent support.

4. Team

1. To attend and participate in briefings.
2. To attend and participate in bi-monthly team meetings at Iverson Trust.
3. To maintain a flexible approach to work, to ensure consistency in working with parents/carers.
4. To have a flexible approach to working hours, as this post will involve occasional unsociable hours, including some evening and weekend work.

5. General tasks and responsibilities of all Iverson Trust staff

1. To undertake any other duties commensurate with the post as agreed with the Head of Parent Services.
2. To carry out all the above accordance with the vision, mission and ethos of Iverson Trust, and within the business plan and policies of the organisation.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge / Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of issues faced by young people and their families particularly in relation to exploitation and abuse. • Knowledge of safeguarding agencies and LSP roles • Knowledge of child protection procedures • Relevant qualification, i.e. social care, probation, health, criminology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local networks and the different communities living in Blackburn with Darwen.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with vulnerable people. • Experience of safeguarding practice and working within child protection and information sharing protocols. • Experience of working within a multi-disciplinary / multi agency framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with parents and carers. • Experience of working with issues of child sexual and criminal exploitation. • Experience of involving those with whom you work in planning / designing / implementing services.
Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT, internet and social media literate. • Ability to produce written reports of an appropriate standard for funders and management. • Ability to deliver presentations and training to a range of audiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of practice-based risk assessment within direct service provision.
Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers licence and ability to travel to a variety of locations. • Willing to undertake required professional training in line with industry standards (this may necessitate a personal time commitment) • Able to work unsociable hours. 	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to the ethos of Iverson Trust, working with parents as valued partners in tackling child sexual and criminal exploitation. • Be able to show an understanding of and commitment to, working in an Equal Opportunities framework, including anti-racist and anti-discriminatory professional practice. 	



protecting
children, supporting
families