

## Job Description

<b>Job Title</b>	Independent Scrutineer
<b>Directorate</b>	Children & Young People Services
<b>Service Area</b>	Childrens Social Care
<b>Competency Level</b>	3
<b>Salary</b>	£600 per day
<b>Job Type</b>	Agile
<b>Location</b>	City Wide
<b>Disclosure and barring service (DBS)</b>	Basic DBS
<b>Job Evaluation Ref No</b>	

## Job Purpose

Providing scrutiny, challenge, and assurance from partners on the effectiveness of the children's safeguarding arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding case reviews.

### Directly Responsible For:

Not applicable

## Directly Responsible To:

The three Statutory Partners: Liverpool City Council Council; Merseyside Police and Cheshire, and Merseyside Integrated Commissioning Board

## Main Areas of Responsibility:

- Provide independent scrutiny to the Safeguarding Partnership ensuring that it fulfils its statutory responsibilities set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Care Act 2014 and other related guidance to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults in Liverpool
- To provide effective and objective scrutiny and challenge and act as constructive critical friend as well as promoting reflection to drive continuous improvement to both the partnership and safeguarding practice
- To consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported
- To provide assurance to the Safeguarding Partners that organisations have strategies in place for addressing priorities, gaps and risks and how effective they are
- To seek assurance regarding the robustness and effectiveness of local multi-agency arrangements in Liverpool to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults and to report areas of weakness and highlight areas of strength to the safeguarding partners
- To scrutinise on how organisations hold each other to account to take corrective action and to improve services where issues of poor performance and practice are identified
- To report to the Executive Board as required
- To assist and provide independent advice when there are any conflicts of interest between the key statutory leads

- Listen to the experiences of children, young people, adults with care and support needs and their families to ascertain how effectively local arrangements are working for them
- Provide opportunities for an independent perspective of frontline practice through direct conversations with practitioners and how effectively the arrangements are working for them
- Report to the safeguarding partners any recommendations from their scrutiny and/or assurance activities
- Provide independent oversight and scrutiny on serious child safeguarding cases and safeguarding adult reviews ensuring that reviews are undertaken rigorously in line with statutory guidance and acting as liaison between the Safeguarding Partners and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on cases relating to children. To challenge decisions on behalf of the partnership on the commissioning of reviews and publication arrangements
- To scrutinise the findings and outcomes of any safeguarding reviews and hold agencies to account for the effective implementation of recommendations identified
- Facilitate the effective operation of multi-agency safeguarding partnership meetings including chairing of meetings and following up progress on decisions and recommendations identified
- Contribute to the content of the partnership's annual reports on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for both children and adults, their performance, and the effectiveness of local services
- To engage in inspection related activity across the partnership

## **Supervision and Management Responsibility:**

- No supervision or management responsibility

## **Budget and Financial Responsibility:**

- Being fully accountable for managing the council's resources well and complying with statutory requirements. This includes managing time, avoiding unnecessary waste, reuse and recycle resources to reduce personal impact

## **Social Value Responsibility:**

- Drive for social value through all activities, ensuring wider social, economic and environmental benefits for the council, residents and communities

## **Physical Demands of the Job:**

- This post is a combination of office work and field work. It will involve sitting for long periods of time and a requirement to travel to meet service needs

## **Corporate Responsibility:**

- Contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan
- Delivering and promoting excellent customer service, externally and internally
- Commitment to customer excellence by dealing with customer feedback, including complaints, and learning from feedback in the drive for continuous improvement
- Making the council a great place to work, living the council's values, actively engaging in regular communications including team meetings, undertaking training as required and being responsible for managing own performance
- Develop the City Council's commitment to equal opportunities and to promote non-discriminatory practices in all aspects of work undertaken
- To ensure that all work functions are undertaken in accordance with health and safety legislation, codes of practice and the City Council's safety plan

## Competency Framework:

We operate a competency framework, a set of core behaviours which define how we are expected to approach our work, how we perform in certain situations and how we treat each other. Each competency details the standards of behaviours and skills required by all staff and this in turn supports delivery of our aim and our council plans linking them together with our values.

The post holder will be required to demonstrate the ability to perform at the following competency level **3**.

[The competency framework can be found here.](#)

This job description is not intended to be either prescriptive or exhaustive. It is issued as a framework to outline the main areas of responsibility. You will be expected to carry out any other duties that may reasonably be required in line with your main duties and changing priorities of the organisation.

# Person Specification

Assessment methods used: I = Interview, P = Presentation, A = Application, E = Exercise, T = Test, AC = Assessment Centre

## Qualification and training

### Essential

- Educated to degree level in a relevant field (e.g, health, education, criminal justice, social care) or equivalent work experience (A,I)

### Desirable

- Management Qualification
- Registered with the SWE (depending on professional background)

## Experience

### Essential

- Substantial experience and/or background of effective involvement at an operational and strategic level in a relevant field in either the private, public, or voluntary sector (A,I)
- Experience of working at a strategic level within a multi-disciplinary context (A,I)
- Experience of independent scrutiny and quality assurance functions (A,I)
- Experience of promoting the welfare of children and/or adults, through previous or current professional or voluntary activities (A,I)

- Experience, knowledge, and an understanding of statutory and voluntary organisations and how they work (A,I)
- Significant and demonstrable evidence of chairing skills within complex multi-agency arenas (A,I)
- A proven track record of having influenced and negotiated successfully at a strategic level across agencies, disciplines, and sectors (A,I)
- Experience of developing and maintaining strong strategic relationships to ensure effective governance of and between partnerships (A,I)
- Extensive knowledge of the safeguarding children and adult agendas including the Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance (A,I)
- A good understanding of relevant regulations and operational context of safeguarding work to enable well rounded contributions to considering case issues, e.g., professional challenges or Child /Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Safeguarding Adult Reviews (A,I)
- Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, research, Inspection regimes and sector led improvement activity (A,I)
- A good understanding of the Data Protection Act and information sharing (A,I)
- Experience of supporting and advising a multi-agency partnership of how to resolve professional disagreements (A,I)
- Experience of involving the wider community in consultation and decision making at all levels including contributing to strategic plans and developments (A,I)

## Desirable

- Experience of dealing with the media and the ability to promote the work of Safeguarding Partnership

## Skills/Abilities

### Essential

- Ability to form effective working relationships with partners / lay members / public differing backgrounds (A,I)
- Ability to communicate both orally and in writing to a wide range of audiences (including ability to write clear and concise reports & presentations) (A,I)
- Ability to demonstrate sound organisational skills, work under pressure and determine priorities to meet strict deadlines (A,I)
- Ability to maintain independence and objectivity (A,I)

## Commitment

### Essential

- Suitability to work with children / vulnerable adults (A)
- Undertaking Office Holder duties on behalf of the Authority (A)

### Desirable

- An understanding of and a personal commitment to the Vision and Values of Liverpool City Council

## Other

### Essential

- This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at the appropriate level