

Job Description

Job Title	Children's Advocate.
Location	Empowerment, 333 Bispham Road, Bispham, Blackpool, FY2 0HH.
Salary	£21,000.
Hours	37 per week.
Pension and Holidays:	Stakeholder pensions rules apply. 29 days annual leave plus Bank Holidays.
Job Duration	Permanent.
Main Purpose	To provide high quality advocacy support to eligible children and young people in Blackpool.

Key Tasks

- To promote the rights of children and young people (CYP) by providing effective and independent advocacy.
- Confidential support which provides information, representation, support and advocacy to eligible CYP regarding their rights in relation to the council services they are receiving.
- Support CYP to make a representation (including a complaint) if they wish to and support them through the process.
- To represent CYP views or empower them to speak for themselves whether in LAC reviews, those CYP subject to Child Protection Plans or who may be eligible for other support during other council processes.
- Ensure CYP are confident that their advocate will act for them and is free from any conflicts of interest.
- Form excellent partnership relationships with residential homes, children's social care teams, fostering agencies etc.
- Develop and disseminate service information to raise awareness and understanding of the service.
- Deliver all advocacy support in line with evidence of what works and in a manner which is adapted to the individual needs of CYP.
- An expectation to provide advocacy services to adults when the demand for adult advocacy is exceptionally high.

Please Note: Empowerment exists to respond to the needs of individuals so that many of the tasks and responsibilities are unpredictable and varied. It is therefore expected that all staff will work in a flexible manner when required, undertaking tasks that have not been specifically covered in their job description. The post holder may reasonably be expected to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of responsibility. It is the responsibility of the post holder to comply with Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities at all times.

Person Specification

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Qualifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Maths and English Grade C or above. • Work towards the National Qualification in Independent Advocacy within the first year following appointment. 	E E
Experience and Knowledge	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with children and young people (CYP). 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive experience and knowledge of the needs of vulnerable CYP and the relevant legislative framework. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and appreciation of empowerment and advocacy issues. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the Department of Health's ten national standards for the provision of CYP Advocacy. 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local agencies to signpost service users on to. 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of legislation relating to the protection of service users. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working within the constraints of confidentiality. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of multi-disciplinary assessments and reviews. 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the Mental Capacity, Data Protection and Human Rights Acts and other relevant legislation. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of safeguarding procedures. 	E
Skills and Abilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability and desire to work in partnership with carers and other care professionals. 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic and empathic disposition to CYP. 	E

• Ability to work within a partnership environment.	E
• Ability to work on your own.	E
• Good negotiating and interpersonal skills – specifically with service users.	E
• Good communication and listening skills.	E
• A demonstrable belief in the rights of service users and commitment to anti-discriminatory practice.	E
• Ability to prioritise workload and manage time effectively.	E
• Positive, professional attitude and non-judgmental approach.	E
• Effective communication skills (written and verbal), including the production of written reports.	E
• Ability to work as part of a close-knit team.	E
• Enthusiasm.	E
• Tact and diplomacy.	E
• Honesty and integrity.	E
• Reliability (in terms of tasks given and attendance).	E
• Commitment to the organisation’s vision, values and mission.	E
Special Requirements	
• Driver with a car (<i>If you have a disability which does not enable you to drive a car, Empowerment will discuss reasonable alternative arrangements for travel</i>).	D
• This post is subject to an enhanced application to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).	E
• Attendance and participation at external meetings as deemed appropriate by the Advocacy Team.	E

Key

E = Essential **D** = Desirable



let's end mental health discrimination

Empowerment is committed to being a 'Time to Change' organisation.
 For more information on this please visit <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/>