Job Description
Social Worker (Children's Social Care)

Service:	Children's Social Care, Contextual Safeguarding Service.	**Team:**	Contextual Safeguarding Service
Salary	37,563-41,177	**Grade:**	8/9 (points 25-35) Bar at top of 8 (point 30)
Reports to:	Team Manager	**Staff responsible for:**	None

Job Purpose

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

Lancashire County Council is redesigning the contextual safeguarding service to create a unique and ground-breaking service to support children experiencing exploitation and extra familial harm. We welcome applications from all levels of experience and backgrounds to help deliver this exciting new way of working with young people. What we ask for in return is committed, resilient and dedicated staff. Staff who wish to work as part of a multi disciplinary team, who do not give up on young people, staff who think creatively and staff who are comfortable with managing young people and plans in alternative ways. In support of Social Workers in this Team, we have a devoted, highly skilled and experienced management team. Within this team you will feel safe, supported, rewarded for hard work and respected for your service to our Team.

Working alongside practitioners from a variety of disciplines, our Social Workers deliver intensive interventions to young people to reduce risk within a contextual safeguarding framework. The team will work with young people and their families with the following presenting issues:

- Extra familial harm – *harm that occurs outside of the family system – children that are at risk of or are already experiencing harm caused by people outside of their family and/or children who are at risk of or are already causing harm to young people outside of their family*.

- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Young People at risk of radicalisation
- Homeless protocol – no plan of permanence
- Sexual exploitation
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Modern slavery
- Serious youth violence
- Radicalisation and Terrorism
- Domestic abuse – peer on peer or child towards parent.
- Young People experiencing acute mental health episodes.

Our practitioners will have access to specialist training to support their role such as; trauma recovery model, vicarious trauma, contextual safeguarding and safety planning amongst a number of other training courses

Accountabilities/Responsibilities

- To undertake structured assessments and provide intensive support to children and young people identified as having additional and complex needs and who are deemed vulnerable or at risk.
- To deliver appropriate interventions as part of an agreed package of support, ensuring plans are robust and outcome focused and regularly reviewed.
- To manage a case load of young people and families who require social care intervention
- To develop and deliver relevant group work programmes which address needs and risk of involvement in crime and exploitation.
- Welcome and enable service users' participation and feedback to deliver good outcomes for children, young people and families.
- To play an active role with colleagues in peer group supervision and practice development sessions.
- To maintain accurate, comprehensive case management information using specified electronic databases, complying with deadlines and statutory standards and requirements.
- To manage and be accountable for your own social work practice using supervision and continuing professional development as required.
- To work effectively as part of a multi-agency team, contributing to research and development of the team and lead on specific projects
- To represent the contextual safeguarding Service and deliver the objectives working in partnership with other agencies.
- Comply with LCC and service-specific administrative and financial procedures including the maintenance of appropriate and up-to-date records.
- Ensure the needs and wishes of children are fully addressed in the assessment and planning process and that there is evidence of children and young people's participation.
- The duties and responsibilities listed above describe the post as it is at present. The post holder is expected to accept any reasonable alterations that may from time to time be necessary.

Other

- **Equal Opportunities**
  We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.
- **Health and safety**
  All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.

- **Safeguarding Commitment**
  We are committed to protecting and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Person Specification
Social Worker (Children's Social Care)

Qualifications
• CQSW, Dipsw, Degree in Social Work or equivalent recognised qualification in Social Work • Registration with Social Work England
Experience
• Social work with children and families • Youth work
Essential knowledge, skills & abilities
• Desire, determination, and resilience to work with young people, specifically teenagers. • Knowledge of child and adolescent development • Skills in working effectively with children and families in varied and complex circumstances • Demonstrate an awareness of risk factors associated with offending, exploitation, poverty and disadvantage • Written and verbal communication skills • Ability to use basic computer technology • Ability to learn and understand theoretical concepts, legal frameworks and to work within policy and procedure • Ability to value diversity by treating people as individuals, valuing their input and contribution and work across cultures. • Ability to work with a varied caseload and to manage timetables and demands • Ability to use supervision positively and to contribute to the performance management process • Ability to work as an effective team member • Ability to respond positively and effectively to children and their families, promoting 'working in partnership' at all times • Ability to work in partnership with other professionals/agencies

- Ability to respond positively to training and development opportunities
- Knowledge of the cultures and religions of the communities of Lancashire
- Good knowledge of relevant legislation
- Skills in assessment of children and families and developing packages of support

Other essential requirements

- Commitment to equality and diversity
- Commitment to health and safety
- Display the LCC values and behaviours at all times and actively promote them in others
- This is an essential car user post.

  You will be required to provide a car for use in connection with the duties of this post and must be insured for business use. In certain circumstances consideration may be given to applicants who, as a consequence of a disability, are unable to drive.