

Job Description

<u>Job title:</u>	Perinatal Support Worker
<u>Location:</u>	Medway
<u>Hours:</u>	30 hours per week
<u>Grade:</u>	Grade 2 (lower)
<u>Service:</u>	Medway Perinatal Support Project
<u>Reports to:</u>	Project Coordinator

Main purpose:

To take the supporting role in providing a Perinatal Support Service. The service is an early intervention, low intensity service for those with low level (mild to moderate) diagnosed mental health issues or who are at risk of developing mental health issues in the perinatal period.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. To support the coordinator to establish and maintain a referral system, assess referred parents in their homes (including completing evaluation questionnaires) and match to an appropriate volunteer befriender.
2. To develop professional relationship with referred parents and carers and plan and deliver appropriate support during the ante and postnatal periods.
3. To support new parents to understand the emotional needs of their infants and promote secure attachment for the child.
4. To support with the recruitment of volunteers and the delivery of volunteer befriender training.
5. To support the matching of trained volunteer bfrienders to parents and carers.
6. To help with devising group work programmes for mums with perinatal mental health issues and support their roll out.
7. To work with health services and other external agencies in the delivery of workshops and other activities to promote bonding and attachment.
8. To effectively liaise with statutory and voluntary services, attending relevant meetings as necessary, to help ensure users receive coordinated help and support.
9. To actively promote the service to ensure take up by all those eligible.

10. To keep accurate case records; prepare for and attend supervision and appraisals; and attend training relevant to the post and to contribute to team and other meetings as required by the Project Coordinator.
11. To identify appropriate methods of disseminating information about the project e.g. through producing reports and facilitating/contributing to workshops/presentations.
12. To be able to evidence Family Action's values at all times, which underpin Family Action's mission of 'building stronger families' by:
 - a) Being **people focused**
 - b) Reflecting a '**can do**' approach
 - c) Striving for **excellence** in everything we do
 - d) Having **mutual respect** for everyone we work with, work for and support through our services.
13. To ensure you have an understanding (appropriate to your role) of, and comply with Family Action's procedures for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
14. To work very closely with the projects partners to ensure the overall success of the project.
15. To ensure the implementation of Family Action's Equality & Diversity Policy and Ethical Policy in every aspect of your work and positively promote the principles of these policies amongst colleagues, service users and other members of the community.
16. To comply with Family Action's Health and Safety Policy, Data Protection Policy and to protect your own and others' health, safety and welfare.
17. To work flexibly as may be required by the needs of the service and carry out any other reasonable duties as required.

Person Specification

1. An appropriate social care, early years, or health qualification – minimum Level 3.
2. Ability to plan and deliver an agreed programme of support for vulnerable 'parents to be' and parents that promotes attachment to the child and develops parenting skills.
3. An understanding of how mental health issues can affect relationships in a family setting.
4. An understanding of child and adult Safeguarding issues, an ability to implement relevant policies and procedures.
5. A confident and professional approach to working with parents and colleagues and excellent verbal, listening and presentation skills.
6. Good IT skills and the ability to input into the Family Action database.
7. The ability to contribute to multi-disciplinary meetings and prepare and present reports as required.
8. Ability and enthusiasm to work creatively and independently with an appropriate amount of supervision and as part of wider Family Action teams.
9. Excellent assessment, planning and record keeping skills.
10. A commitment to equal opportunities and an understanding of the impact of deprivation and discrimination on communities, families and individuals.
11. To be able to evidence Family Action's values at all times, which underpin Family Action's mission of 'building stronger families' by:
 - a) Being people focused
 - b) Reflecting a 'can do' approach
 - c) Striving for excellence in everything we do
 - d) Having mutual respect for everyone we work with, work for and support through our services
12. Ability to travel across Medway as required.