

Job Description

Job title:	Therapeutic Practitioner (Counsellor)
Location:	County Durham
Hours:	37 hours per week (Fixed Term Contract - Until 31/12/2023)
Salary Grade:	Grade 2 (upper) point 16-19
Service:	The Bridge Young Carers
Reports to:	Project Manager

Principal Accountabilities:

1. To carry out assessments and undertake individual and some group therapeutic work with children and young people who are emotionally impacted by their caring responsibilities.
2. To assist parents/carers and family members in their understanding of the emotional impact of caring responsibilities in order that they might respond appropriately to the emotional needs of children and young people.
3. To formulate therapeutic intervention plans with young carers and implement them over a time-limited period, monitoring and evaluation the effectiveness of the intervention in order to measure progress.
4. To be responsible for ensuring that children receive holistic support that is appropriate to their needs, including sign posting to other services where appropriate.
5. To work with team members to devise and implement effective monitoring and evaluation systems and to assist with the production of reports as and when required.
6. To actively promote co-production principles throughout the work.
7. To take responsibility for accessing supervision and responding to any case or service decisions effectively, recording all decisions and ensuring that confidentiality and professional boundaries are maintained at all times.
8. To undertake administrative and case recording tasks in relation to own work.
9. 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
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10. 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.
 11. To ensure the implementation of Family Action's Diversity & Equality Policy and our 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.
 12. To comply with Family Action's Health and Safety Policy, Data Protection Policy and to protect your own and others' health, safety and welfare.
 13. To work flexibly as may be required by the needs of the service and carry out any other reasonable duties as required.
 14. To work with our delivery partner Butterwick Hospice proactively to meet the needs of young carers across County Durham.

Person Specification

Therapeutic Practitioner (Counsellor)

1. A recognised professional qualification in counselling preferably a BSc degree in psychology with membership of the BACP or similar and HPC registration and evidence of a commitment to continuing learning and professional development.
2. Proven experience of providing therapeutic support to children and young people.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the issues faced by Young Carers.
4. Knowledge and understanding of direct and/or non direct approaches to working with children and young people and an understanding of the theory that underpins these approaches.
5. Awareness of multi-agency support plans, including TAF and other partnership or integrated models of working.
6. A sound knowledge of current developments in social care practice affecting children and families, including the practical application of Working Together principles.
7. An understanding of the impact of caring responsibilities on educational attendance, attainment, aspirations and futures.
8. A working knowledge of Safeguarding procedures in order to advise and support professionals working on cases where there are safeguarding issues.
9. The ability to work autonomously and to plan, prioritise, work under pressure and adapt to new models of working.
10. A commitment to undertake appropriate training and professional development.
11. Access to a vehicle for work purposes that will enable the post holder to transport self, children, parents and carers quickly and safely across County Durham.
12. Knowledge and skills in the use of IT including the ability to use Microsoft packages e.g. excel, outlook.
13. A sound knowledge and experience of case recording including the use of Management Information Systems to record client data in-line with GDPR requirements.
14. 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