



achieving
for children



Social Worker - Fostering

Scale point: PA05 - PA08 | Based in Windsor and Maidenhead | Full time

About the service

The Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) was created in August 2018 and the Kingston and Richmond Branch was inspected in September 2019 and achieved a “Good” rating in all areas. The Windsor and Maidenhead branch of the IFA was inspected and approved as a branch in June 2020.

This post sits in the fostering team and is based in Maidenhead. This service has experienced social workers with good assessment, communication and report writing skills, and the motivation to achieve excellent standards in contributing to the development of the service. All social workers will contribute to the effective work of this team and have the experience of supervising and supporting the caseload of foster carers.

About the role

Achieving for Children is an expanding Independent Fostering Agency, located at Maidenhead Town Hall. The Social Workers role will be to work with colleagues to provide the full range of fostering services, including recruitment, assessment, training and supervision / support, duty services, as well as Form F, Form C and Special Guardianship Assessment. They will undertake a range of work to safely place and work to achieve permanency plans for children. Achieving for Children work within the framework of signs of safety and we place a strong emphasis on signs of success, as well as peer group supervision sessions. There are opportunities to be involved in the development of foster carer training and support groups.

About you: our role specification

Qualifications

- You will be required to hold a professional qualification (DipSW/CQSW/CSS or equivalent)
- Active Social Work England registration and proven evidence of continuing professional development

Skills and experience

- Experience in presenting to fostering panels, and completing annual review reports.
- Strong team player.
- Preferably experience in working within the signs of safety framework and peer supervision practice.
- Good understanding of the challenges faced by foster carers, and the complexities of fostering assessments including private fostering.
- Knowledge of statutory legislation (for example Children's Act) and national policy drivers that will affect children's services and the role.
- Experience of keeping and maintaining records (in accordance with local policy) and producing accurate reports, presentations, written updates to a range of stakeholders (which may include families, children or young people). Ideally including Form F assessments.
- Experience of building strong partnerships, maintaining relationships and working with a range of professionals, especially foster carers.
- Experience of addressing specific equality or diversity issues within your practice with colleagues/service users and taking action to solve them.

Personal attributes

- A passion for Achieving for Children's vision, mission and values (trust, value, respect) to support children and young people to live safe, happy, healthy and successful lives.
- Able to use a range of digital hardware or software to support your work effectively i.e. Microsoft or Google software.
- Strong organisational abilities including: time management, creative-thinking, problem-solving and multitasking.
- Able to work flexibly and independently with limited management oversight.
- Personal determination, drive, energy and ambition to achieve challenging objectives, celebrate success and deliver excellent outcomes for children using a strength based approach.
- Commitment to resource-sharing and collaborative working within Achieving for Children and across organisational boundaries in the best interests of children and families.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills that are open, honest, persuasive and pragmatic, including excellent negotiation and influencing skills.
- Full clean driving licence, with access to a vehicle for business purposes.

The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties commensurate with the grade of the post, including deputising or working flexibly across the week to meet the business demands. This job profile is provided for guidance only.

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