



Role Profile

Reference Number	QCM012
Role Title	Independent Children's Reviewer/Child Protection Chair
Directorate	Children's Services
Department	Quality Assurance, Performance, Improvement and Governance
Reports to	Independent Reviewing Manager

Role Purpose

To ensure 'best practice', rigour and outstanding care and safety planning for children and young people.

To provide independent professional oversight and scrutiny, review, and quality assurance to the social care practice of children to safeguard and protect the children with the BCP Council community. Roles will be expected to provide independent on the areas of child protection and children in care.

Accountabilities

- Monitor and scrutinise the quality of practice in relation child protection, children in care and fostering, and support and challenge the work of senior managers to ensure effective planning for children in care and those subject to child protection plans.
- Provide advice and recommendations to staff and managers within Children Services and to other agencies working with children, so that they can improve and increase the safeguarding of children.
- Promote high standards of practice, monitoring and evaluating service quality to ensure that the quality of all social care practice provided by the service is high, meets performance targets, and meets national and local standards, including compliance with legislation and local policy and procedures.
- Take decisions in relation to complex and contentious cases and issues affecting service delivery, children's lives, exercising professional judgement within the policy framework, so that positive outcomes are delivered for service users in line with best practice.
- Assess and manage risks relating to safeguarding service users or reputational damage, including ensuring that risk management is addressed in all procedures and staff guidance, to ensure that potential issues are managed appropriately and promptly.
- Chair and co-ordinate statutory childcare reviews or reviews of foster carers as an independent reviewing officer, reviewing, monitoring and enabling effective plans to be in place and progressed for children in care and/or foster carer development.
- Prepare reports for staff, managers, Elected Members, relevant panels and Local Safeguarding Children Board working groups to inform decision making, enable governance of planning and care for children, and to disseminate best practice.
- Lead on or contribute to, as appropriate, the development and dissemination of policy and procedure for children in care and/or contribute to an effective mechanism for child protection conferences and child in need planning meetings within the authority, so that BCP Council continues to fulfil its obligations and improves safeguarding for children and families.
- Contribute and deliver learning activities and provide evidence to prompt reflection on best practice amongst the social care workforce.

Knowledge / Skills / Experience required

- Degree in Social Work or equivalent (CSS CQSW, Dip SW).
- Advanced level post-qualifying social work qualifications.
- Registered with Social Work England.
- Thorough understanding of the legal framework relating to looked after children, families, and care leavers.
- Knowledge of the duties of the quality assurance and independent reviewing officers' service.
- Working knowledge and experience of operational planning and service delivery within children's services in local government.
- Awareness of the requirements of leading and managing change within a large, complex organisation.
- Substantial social work experience in a front-line setting, and experience of managing front line social care staff.
- Experience of chairing meetings involving children, parents and/or carers and other professionals, preferably in the role of Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Experience of providing social work supervision and support, and of developing and implementing planning and performance frameworks in a multi-disciplinary and partnership environment.
- Ability to manage conflict, and to negotiate and achieve agreements within complex multi-agency meetings and work with representatives from other agencies to develop plans for children at risk and in care.
- Ability to provide advice, a critical perspective and appropriate challenge.

Dimensions of role

- This role will work closely with many teams and may have a small number of direct reports to deliver day to day objectives.
- The role does not have any financial delegation.
- Planning will typically be weeks and months. The role holder will need to be proactive and respond to queries and be able to organise their own time.

Notes

Date:	01/08/2024
Working Conditions:	<p>The role holder will witness distressing and sometimes traumatic circumstances as an unavoidable part of the job and be taking decisions that may have upsetting consequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role holder will have to deal with confrontation, conflict, hostility and challenging behaviour from service users and their families on a regular basis, as well as potential personal threat.
Working Arrangements:	The role holder may be required to work outside core office hours and required to travel nationally.