

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Drug, Alcohol & Sexual Health Worker

REPORTS TO: Manager, Adolescent Health Team

DEPARTMENT: Families, Children & Learning

SECTION: Adolescent Service

PURPOSE OF JOB

To offer targeted and structured preventative interventions to young people identified as being at risk of being involved with substances, early teenage pregnancy or engaging in risky sexual behaviour.

Accountabilities

- In secondary schools and other community settings, offer one to one and group sessions, delivering education and protective behaviours work, relating to substance use and misuse and partner relationships.
- Assist professionals in the use of, and raise their awareness of, substance misuse screening tool.
- Offer individual evidence-based interventions, in accordance with the Fraser Guidelines, to those under 18, living or receiving education in Brighton & Hove.
- Hold a caseload with a short-term care plan on those young people assessed as requiring an intervention, aimed at reducing risks associated with use of substances, partner relationships or sexual activity.
- Challenge young people's risk taking behaviour and explore alternatives with them.
- Work alongside specialist substance misuse, smoking cessation and sexual health workers.
- Update information on young people worked with and keep accurate, timely and relevant case notes on the database.
- Use screening and evaluation tools to track young people's outcomes and achievements

- To actively promote opportunities for service user involvement
- To attend and participate in triage meetings and support any inter-agency activities including training and joint working with the community to prevent the reduction of substance misuse by young people
- Make safeguarding referrals and signpost young people to specialist services
- To work flexibly, according to the needs of the Adolescent Service and participate in a number of rotas, including day time, late night duty.
- To maintain confidentiality, within agreed information sharing protocols of the Families, Children & learning department of BHCC.
- To be involved in appropriate staff development and training
- To carry out from time to time any other appropriate duties as directed by the line manager to support and promote the work of Children's services , in accordance with the post holder's capabilities

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PERSON SPECIFICATION

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ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Job Related Education, Qualifications & Knowledge

- Health Promotion / Youth work qualification or other relevant training
- Knowledge of Motivational and Behavioural models of intervention
- Knowledge of local specialist social and health care services
- Good knowledge of substance misuse and sexual health issues for young people

Experience

- Working with adolescents in an advice/support setting who are at risk from substance use or sexual behaviour.
- Working in partnership with a wide range of professionals from different agencies, multi-agency work and integrated working
- Strengths-based approach to supporting young people

Skills/Abilities

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work to planned strategies
- Relationship- based work with young people, their carers and professionals.
- Ability to manage and challenge inappropriate behaviour.

- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Creative and proactive approach to engaging young people.

Equalities

- The post holder must comply with and promote the council's Equalities Policy and avoid any behaviour that unfairly discriminates against colleagues, potential employees, or service-users.

Other Requirements

- To be responsive to the changing profile of risk-taking behaviour across the city, including occasionally working evening and weekends

HARDEST PART OF THE JOB

- To undertake direct work with complex young people and families, who are at risk of from substance use, unhealthy partner relationships or sexual behaviour
- To undertake screening of risks and needs and deliver responsive and proportionate interventions to young people
- To work with young people at risk of exploitation or harmful substance use, within multi-agency plans.
- To make timely and appropriate referrals to children's safeguarding teams, as necessary.
- To maintain professional standards where demands may exceed resources, and to manage competing priorities.
- To sustain personal and professional well-being in a work context of client / family distress and possible hostility.

DIMENSIONS

- To offer sessions to young people within identified education settings.
- To respond to referrals for preventative work from within the department's early help response.
- To develop and deliver group work as appropriate to agencies and service-user needs.
- To work with community groups and partner agencies to identify young people at risk of from substance use or sexual behaviour and develop appropriate joint community interventions.
- To work with partner agencies to ensure a joined up approach and collaborative plan is in place for young people.
- To screen young people and refer to specialist services, as necessary.
- To keep line manager informed of situations that present particular risks or threats to service-users, staff, or the department.
- To ensure effective service delivery within area of delegated responsibility.
- To ensure child protection/safeguarding issues are responded to appropriately.

SCOPE FOR IMPACT

Early intervention with young people who are at from their own risk-taking behaviours. Drugs, alcohol and contraceptive education and advice, targeted at reducing early teenage pregnancy or the development of problematic

substance use, either of which will reduce the young person's ability to fulfil their potential and lead a healthy life.

Practitioners will attend triage meetings within schools, allowing them to identify emerging issues and concerns in respect of risk-taking behaviour and offer screening appointments with a view to offer a timely intervention or referral to specialist services.

Practitioners offering C-Card assessments and chlamydia testing, alongside educative sessions, will improve health outcomes for young people.

In addition to offering individual programmes to young people, practitioners will develop and deliver group programmes, offering information to young people, parents / carers and professionals. This will build protective factors around the young people.

JOB CONTEXT

The post holder will have contact with young people at council offices, in schools and other community settings or the young person's home environment. The post holder will work as a lone worker within the community.

The post holder may be asked to work some weekends and evenings on a rota basis.