

Job Profile

Sessional Contact Workers

Job Purpose

The Local Authority is required to support contact with parents whose children are in Local Authority care. These contacts have to be supervised to ensure the safety of the children while in their parent's care. Contacts are usually for between 1- 2 hours with most being one and a half hours in duration. The numbers of children to be supervised will vary and depending on requirements it may be necessary for two workers to supervise sessions. A rota is provided for all staff on a monthly basis so that they are aware well in advance of work allocation. Sessional workers will be expected to communicate their availability with the rota manager on a regular basis.

Contact sessions for children of school age are usually 3.30 pm – 5 pm approximately Monday to Friday. There is no current requirement for weekend work. If the children are under school age then contacts will be arranged earlier in the day so that they finish by 3 pm.

Main Responsibilities

The contact worker will be expected to be able to observe the interaction between the adults and the child/ children and to record this on the document template specifically for that purpose. It will therefore be important for the contact worker to have a good understanding of child development and attachment issues.

The contact recordings are submitted to court and therefore a good standard of English is required along with accurate recording. The contact recordings will need to be available no later than 5 days after the contact has been completed. The contact recordings will be quality controlled by managers.

It may be necessary for the contact worker to be able to support the parent during the contact if the parent is unable to interact appropriately with the child or requires support with behaviour management techniques.

Contact workers are also required to be able to transport the children in their own vehicles from the carer's homes to the family centre. Car seats are provided for the children and will need to be fitted into the car prior to any journey. Journeys are usually fairly local but may on occasion extend up to 20 miles from Bracknell. Evidence of business insurance will need to be provided by the employee before employment is confirmed.

The contact worker will need to have a good understanding of safeguarding issues to be able to notify managers should any concerns arise during contact. Supervision will be provided to the contact worker on a regular basis.