



Department
for Education



Department
of Health

Set up of the new regulator for Social Workers in England

Secondment opportunities

Adult Social Worker, Child and Family Social Worker

Do you have the talent, skills and experience to be part of a DfE/DH team supporting the setup of Social Work England, the new regulator for social workers? We are looking for an experienced Adult Social Worker and a Child and Family Social Worker. You will be joining a high profile national programme of work at a key moment in its development.

Location

DfE in either Sheffield or London

Closing date

5pm Tuesday 9 January 2018

Duration

Initially for 6 months, the secondment could be extended for a further 6 months with scope to join Social Work England, as secondees, as it is established.

Salary

Commensurate with current role

Background

Establishing a regulator for social workers is a key Ministerial priority that spans the two government departments covering 95,000 social workers across a range of employers including local authorities, the NHS, the independent, voluntary and private sectors and academia.

The new social work regulator will support improvement in the quality of social work practice and raise the status of the profession. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 establishes the regulator, Social Work England, as a body corporate independent from government and sets out its overarching public protection objective in exercising its functions.

You will be part of a split site (Sheffield and London) team of civil servants, regulatory and social work experts, supporting the development of Social Work England. This includes working with the Chair and CEO once in post and increasing its capacity from inception to enable it to meet its first priorities of engaging directly with social workers and employers on standards, rules and regulations.

You will:

- Provide a line of sight to frontline practice, providing both challenge and support
- Input your social work knowledge and experience into strategy and operational development and identify the benefits that will be of most value to social workers, employers and others and that will lead to tangible quality improvements
- Support the Chair and CEO through early engagement with the sector including facilitating consultation with social workers, service users, employers and training providers on proposals for professional standards of conduct, CPD standards and approach, and training and education standards for the training of social workers.
- Utilise your networks to open and maintain a dialogue with social workers, service users, employers and training providers so that their needs are built into the organisational design including digital systems. This will include working with researchers to ensure understanding of the types of problems/issues that users, including those with disabilities and low digital skills have and how they might be resolved.

Skills, knowledge and experience:

- Substantial experience of successful strategic and operational working at a senior management level within a relevant Social Services setting
- Experience of championing good quality social work practice and development both within the organisation and at a regional and national level
- Experience of influencing partner agencies in the development / delivery of services
- Demonstrable understanding of high standards of professional practice and of effective systems for ensuring the delivery of high quality, customer-orientated services
- Experience of working with HEI's and other centres of learning to influence qualifying course content and post qualification opportunities
- Evidence of depth of management experience on the issues facing local government and statutory responsibilities associated with the service.
- Knowledge of the principles of quality assurance and standards based service.

Qualifications

Must have a relevant professional qualification in Social Work: Social Work Degree, CQSW, CSS, DipSW or equivalent.

How to apply

Please send a CV and two page supporting statement giving evidence and examples of your ability to meet the skills, knowledge and experience by **5pm on Tuesday 9 January 2018** to tracy.watterson@education.gov.uk

Please include a supportive statement from your line manager and the earliest date by which you could take up a role.

Shortlisting

We will assess the strength of the evidence presented in applications against the criteria in the skills, knowledge and experience section of this document.

We will invite shortlisted candidates for a more detailed discussion with the Project Assistant Directors on **Wednesday 24 January 2018** in either Sheffield or London.

Please note it will not be possible to give feedback at application stage.

Contact

If you would like to speak someone about these roles, please contact:

Tracy Watterson, Assistant Director
tracy.watterson@education.gov.uk

Jonathan Bacon, Assistant Director
jonathan.bacon@education.gov.uk