

Job Description

Directorate:	Education & Childrens Services		
Service:	Childrens Social Care		
Location:	Various		
Salary range:	£51,356 - £55,612	Grade:	11
Reports to:	Senior Manager	Staff responsible for:	Approximately 7

Job purpose and scope

Reporting to the Senior Manager, leading a team of children's services professionals and practitioners, to ensure the development, delivery and continuous improvement of specialist services for children, young people and their families and carers in Lancashire.

Responsibility for managing a team, ensuring that children, young people, carers, and families receive first class specialist assessments and timely support to meet their needs and identify/manage risk.

Supporting the Senior Manager in the development, delivery and review of specialist services for children, young people, their families and carers so that Lancashire's vulnerable children are protected from significant harm, their life chances are maximised and that looked after children or children receiving short breaks are placed in high quality placements with carers who are trained and well supported to meet their needs and care leavers are appropriately supported.

The Team Manager will support the delivery of effective support and services to children, young people and families in line with the vision for Children and Families in Lancashire developed by the Children and Families Partnership Board which states:

Children, young people and their families are safe, healthy and achieve their full potential

To deliver this vision we have agreed some key outcomes:

Five Outcomes

1. Vulnerable children and young people are safe from harm and build resilience.
2. Children and young people achieve their full potential in education, learning and future employment.
3. Children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles and know how to help others.
4. Children, young people and families have a voice in shaping the support they receive.
5. Children and young people live in Lancashire where they can enjoy a good quality of life, be happy and want to stay.

Performance Indicators

- Quality of advice/service against legal, safety and best practice standards
- Achievement of relevant service targets
- Adherence to internal/external quality standards if applicable
- Adherence to policies and procedures
- Accuracy and timeliness of information recording and processing
- Customer and stakeholder feedback
- Leading Lancashire Framework

Leading Lancashire – Our Leadership Framework



Leading Lancashire

Our Leadership Framework

Our Vision and Values We are driven by a simple yet powerful vision – “Here at Lancashire County Council, we are helping to make Lancashire the best place to live, work, visit, and prosper.”

This vision is at the centre of everything we do. Embedded in our identity are our values: *Supportive, Innovative, Respectful, and Collaborative*, our guiding principles that enable everyone to thrive.



Four Spheres of Leadership

The Leading Lancashire framework is a dynamic approach, encapsulating four key spheres:

Responsibilities, Capabilities, Behaviours, and Results.

These spheres form the bedrock of our leadership ethos, providing clarity and direction for all leaders. Responsibilities guide our actions, Capabilities cultivate our potential, Behaviours shape our interactions, and Results measure our impact. Together, these spheres ensure leaders deliver their best for themselves, their teams, LCC, and the people of Lancashire.



The Lancashire Mindset

Woven through the Leading Lancashire framework we introduce The Lancashire Mindset; Growth, Ownership, Optimism and Positive Impact. Adopting this mindset across the entire organisation not only brings our values to life but also emphasises the collective commitment to delivering the best for the people of Lancashire.

The Lancashire Mindset not only shapes our approach to leadership but also serves as a guiding force for a culture rooted in growth, ownership, optimism, and the commitment to making a meaningful positive impact.



Levels of Leadership

The **Leading Lancashire** framework provides an opportunity to define and clarify the focus and purpose of the various leadership levels within the organisation.

VISIONARY (Long-Term Direction):

Level 1 & 2 Leadership – Executive Directors and Directors
Senior leaders at this level, are Visionary Leaders. They have the privilege of shaping the long-term vision for the organisation, providing strategic and visionary direction that will guide the future success of Lancashire County Council.

SHAPING (Medium to Long-Term Strategy):

Level 3 Leadership – Heads of Service
Heads of Service at this level are Shaping Leaders. They are empowered to shape strategies with a broad mid to long-term view, setting clear strategic initiatives that provide direction to the management population, contributing to the organisation’s success in the medium to long term.

OPERATIONAL (Short-Term to Immediate Effectiveness):

Level 4 Leadership – Management Roles
Leaders at this level, found in various management roles, are Operational Leaders. They focus on immediate operational effectiveness, ensuring their teams deliver in the short term, meeting objectives and driving success on a daily-to-monthly basis.

These refined terms more explicitly convey the visionary, shaping, and operational aspects of leadership at each level within the **Leading Lancashire** framework.

Accountabilities/Responsibilities

- Ensuring delivery of Service Plan objectives for the team's areas of responsibility and delivering results to meet the needs of the service users through effective organisation of the team and monitoring of workflow.
- Developing and embedding a performance culture within the team to ensure targets are met and poor performance is effectively managed.
- Maintaining effective systems for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating staff and own performance against the team's objectives within the Service Plan and the County Council's Performance Engagement process. Take appropriate corrective action as necessary.
- Visibly and actively supporting and promoting the corporate activities of the Council and the values of the Council.
- Being aware of changes to policy and procedures and plan for consequent changes to services.
- Leading a process of continual improvement of Safeguarding/Specialist Services to contribute to improved life chances for children, young people and their families.
- To secure the effective use of the available financial and other resources across the Children's Services system and work collaboratively with Early Help partners to enable children, young people and families to gain access to the right support at the right time.
- To ensure all staff are trained, supervised, developed and supported to provide the best possible outcomes for children, families and carers, seeking help from more senior managers and corporate colleagues as appropriate.
- To ensure that the Council performs its duties and functions in fulfilment of its statutory obligations.
- To ensure the team has in place appropriate systems and procedures to prioritise and manage demands on the service by allocating staff and resources appropriately, in accordance with social care assessed need and Education and Children's Services policies.
- To monitor the team's performance with reference to local and key performance indicators for Children's social care services, producing performance and statistical reports as required by CS.
- To ensure the County Council's Performance Engagement policy is implemented in accordance with Supervision Policy and Procedures.
- To support the development of the Council's policies, processes, practices and systems in respect of Safeguarding/Specialist Services, contributing to and ensuring that they are current, of a high standard, conform to best practice, comply with legislation and/or meet the needs of the Council and wider partners working with Safeguarding/Specialist Services.

- Authorising assessments, reports and care plans to a minimum "good" standard; taking responsibility for ensuring plans for children and carers are implemented in accordance with statutory and Council requirements and focussing on the outcomes and impact for children and families.
- Reviewing, evaluating and recommending the necessary action to amend service processes, practices and systems that lead to improved service delivery.
- To undertake monthly team audits in line with the service's quality monitoring requirements.
- To establish mechanisms for the collection of a range of information and/or data on the team and its performance, including its analysis, interpretation, processing and presentation through regular Performance Improvement Meetings.
- To produce reports and presentations to relevant stakeholder and management groups and ensuring high quality representation of Lancashire County Council at Magistrates, County and High Courts.
- To actively promote the effective recruitment and retention of the Children's Services workforce.
- To support the health and well-being of team members including the promotion of a positive worklife balance.
- To ensure all team members keep abreast of the Council's changing legal obligations and mandates.
- To provide positive leadership, instilling a clear sense of direction, priority and pace which reflects the council's values.
- To lead people in an inclusive way to deliver strategic and operational objectives.
- To support the building of positive relationships with children, young people and families; ensuring that their requirements and needs are at the heart of the design and delivery of services in accordance with the Council's Corporate and Partnership strategy and giving prompt attention to any complaints/concerns raised about the services/decision making of the team.
- To build and promote successful partnership working across agencies to deliver a cost effective and "good" service.
- To work with partners to secure feedback on the effectiveness of services delivered, continuously re-evaluate these services and make recommendations for, or take action to, make appropriate changes.

Key tasks and accountabilities are intended to be a guide to the range and level of work expected of the post-holder. This is not an exhaustive list of all tasks that may fall to the post-holder and employees will be expected to carry out such other reasonable duties which may be required from time to time.

Other

- **Equal Opportunities**
We are committed to achieving equal opportunities in the way we deliver services to the community and in our employment arrangements. We expect all employees to understand and promote this policy in their work.
- **Health and safety**
All employees have a responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when carrying out their duties and must help us to apply our general statement of health and safety policy.
- **Customer Focused**
We put our customers' needs and expectations at the heart of all that we do. We expect our employees to have a full understanding of those needs and expectations so that we can provide high quality, appropriate services at all times.
- **Safeguarding Commitment**
We are committed to protecting and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- **Skills Pledge**
We are committed to developing the skills of our workforce. All employees will be supported to work towards a level 2 qualification in literacy and numeracy if they do not have one already.

Our Values

We expect all our employees to demonstrate and promote our values:

- **Supportive**
We are supportive of our customers and colleagues, recognising their contributions and making the best of their strengths to enable our communities to flourish.
- **Innovative**
We deliver the best services we possibly can, always looking for creative ways to do things better, putting the customer at the heart of our thinking, and being ambitious and focused on how we can deliver the best services now and in the future.
- **Respectful**
We treat colleagues, customers and partners with respect, listening to their views, empathising and valuing their diverse needs and perspectives, to be fair, open and honest in all that we do.
- **Collaborative**
We listen to, engage with, learn from and work with colleagues, partners and customers to help achieve the best outcomes for everyone.

Person Specification

All the following requirements are essential unless otherwise indicated by *

Your ability to meet the job requirements will initially be assessed by the information provided on your application but further assessment will be undertaken at interview and, in some cases, by using other types of assessment(s).

Ability, Skills and Experience specific to Contextual Safeguarding

- Ability and skills to manage a Complex/Contextual Safeguarding Team and ensuring evidence-based approaches to working with and supporting young people who may be at risk of harm beyond their families.
- Ability to ensure that all assessments are completed within timescales to a 'good' quality.
- To ensure that children, young people and families have access to a timely assessment.
- Experience and skills to develop multi-disciplinary care plans focused on the outcomes and positive impact for children and young people.
- Experience and skills to manage complex cases, including child protection investigations, pre-proceedings, proceedings and assessments of strength/risk/need to achieve positive outcomes.

Qualifications

- Professional and/or academic level qualification or equivalent or substantial vocational experience in a relevant technical, scientific, specialised or operational field - **CQSW, DipSW, BA in Social Work or equivalent.**
- A professionally qualified, registered Social Worker adhering to the Social Work England professional standards and able meet the Knowledge and Skills statements for child and family social work.
- Management Qualification or significant management training*

Experience

- Experience at middle management level; managing complex operations/functions/services.

- Minimum of 3 years of management/leadership or equivalent experience in Children's Social Care services.
- Ensuring delivering against agreed service plans and managing services in line with agreed budgets, targets and plans.
- Innovative and creative management of services within a diverse, changing and challenging financial environment.
- Management and development of teams to ensure high quality service delivery within an uncertain environment.
- Significant risk management in complex cases/issues within a statutory childcare setting.*
- Social work in statutory and safeguarding areas of service. *

Essential knowledge, skills & abilities

- Strong analytical, evaluative and problem-solving skills.
- Project and change management skills.
- Ability to build and maintain effective networks and relationships.
- Good understanding of Corporate and service strategy and objectives and translation and implementation at local level.
- Experience and skills in partnership working across Children's Services. Promotes co-operation, working together with other organisations and service users as the means of shaping, developing and delivering services.
- Substantial relevant experience in safeguarding and fostering practice in the service area.
- Detailed knowledge of legislative framework in regard to social care and social policy, and sound understanding of related policies and procedures.
- Knowledge of the professional competency framework, work of social work reform board, and the requirements for associated support for staff.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of the statutory framework and current research on effective safeguarding practice and promoting the welfare of children to address user needs.
- Detailed knowledge of inspection framework and understanding of the key standards of service expected.
- Ability to advise and make decisions on complex cases.
- A clear and compelling picture of the direction the service is going and communicates it with energy and enthusiasm Promotes working together as one department to maximise resources and minimise duplication.

Team Manager – Contextual Safeguarding

- Ability to manage a diverse workforce with associated human resources procedures to ensure safe recruitment and the retention and performance management of staff.
- Application of managerial judgement to ensure service area objectives are achieved
- Ability to translate broadly defined deliverables into a clear work schedule/annual plan for the team, co-ordinating and integrating some diverse areas of work to provide clear direction for the team.
- Monitors work plans to ensure performance standards are achieved, in terms of consistency and quality.
- Ability to develop, operate and interpret management information systems to ensure ongoing review of performance of teams and progress towards targets and objectives within the service.
- Actively uses, organises and analyses information to inform the management processes.
- Excellent communication both verbally and in writing, structures ideas and information which results in clarity, understanding and impact.

Other essential requirements

- Commitment to equality and diversity.
- Commitment to health and safety.
- Display the LCC values and behaviours at all times and actively promote them in others.
- This is an essential car user post
You will be required to provide a car for use in connection with the duties of this post and must be insured for business use. In certain circumstances consideration may be given to applicants who, as a consequence of a disability, are unable to drive