

Child House Overview

The UK's first Child House, has been funded by the Home Office, NHS England, MOPAC and DfE and NHS England has commissioned the health and wellbeing services, which will be provided by University College London Hospitals (UCLH), The Tavistock and Portman and NSPCC, supported by Morgan Stanley.

The Child House will provide a child-centered journey after a child or young person has experienced sexual abuse. It will provide a coordinated approach to supporting children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. All medical, advocacy, social care, police, and therapeutic support will be delivered from one place. The aim is that children, young people and their families receive the justice, support and therapy in a timely manner meaning that they can move forward towards recovering from the abuse. Instead of putting a child through an adult-facing system, the Child House will focus on meeting the needs of the child.

In time, it is envisaged that the Child Houses will become a centre of excellence serving as a place for the advancement of child protection and family supportive practices. It will seek to contribute to the international body of literature on all matters relating to child sexual abuse and help change societal attitudes to abuse more broadly.

The Social Care Liaison officer will be based in the Child House and will be part of the Child House multi-disciplinary team. Operational duties and responsibilities will be managed within the Child House, along with a formal professional management line in the Council, as the posts will be attached to the Quality Assurance Unit.

This role offers flexibility due to the services operational hours, and at Camden and within these roles flexible working would be encouraged.

Job Profile: Child House Project: Social Care Liaison Role

This supplementary information for the Social Care Liaison Role in the North Central London (NCL) Child House is for guidance and must be used in conjunction with the Job Capsule for Social Care at Job Level 5 Zone 1

It is for use during recruitment, setting objectives as part of the performance management process and other people management purposes. It does not form part of an employee's contract of employment.

Job Family - Job Level 5 Zone 1 (£43,737 - £50,736)

Role Purpose:

Be a key member of the operational leadership team in the North Central London (NCL) Child House. Support the lead Provider in applying the Pan London Child Protection Procedures in the context of this new and innovative pilot approach of responding to Child Sexual Abuse. Ensure care and therapeutic support is available to children, young people and their non-offending family members. The post holder will not carry a caseload but will have responsibility for leading on providing advice and co-ordinating cases between the Child House and the local social care teams across the five North Central London boroughs.

To offer in-depth knowledge, experience and expertise in child protection to the child house team to support timely and effective decision making, especially with very complex cases and/or where a child's/young person's wishes may be at odds with best practice. The post holder will also interface with schools, education and other local authority functions, in order to help promote the health, wellbeing and safety of the child/young person. To promote the Child House amongst social care teams, MASH, public health and education across the five North Central London (NCL) boroughs.

Example outcomes or objectives that this role will deliver:

- To act as lead/expert adviser for child protection work in family services, social work and contribute to the development and adherence to the highest quality child protection practices in the context of the Child House initiative
- To ensure that NCL Child Protection pathways are clear and running smoothly between the Child House and the 5 local boroughs, making recommendations, advocating and assisting with the implementation of system-wide changes as required and in order to support a process of continuous Improvement
- Ensure appropriate systems are in place to refer cases to Local Authorities/social care teams when required
- To provide expert advice to individual social workers on the role of the Child House, including those vulnerable 18-25 year olds with additional needs

- Liaise with local social care teams and provide expertise and challenge decisions and provide alternative solutions throughout and assist with complex decision making
- Enable collection of data for Child House outcome/evaluation measures for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), NHS England (London), local commissioners via the Child House Case Management System. To support the evaluation required by the Home Office and/or Department for Education and to provide LAs with information on all cases and safeguarding matters, providing analytical support alongside the data
- Take the lead in developing and conducting training and briefing on the Child House model to social care teams, MASH, public health and education across the five North Central London (NCL) boroughs. To create a network of expertise across the 5 local authorities
- Provide information, find and develop solutions and unlock blocks in the system to help the Child House access wider local authority services such as housing, education, specialist teams when a child/young person has additional needs, including those in transition to adult services
- To promote and develop high quality and consistent child protection practice sensitive to the needs of children and young people, especially those from ethnic minority and hard to reach communities and/or in transition to adult services
- Disseminate information to other social care colleagues so that the Child House is known, the role of Social Care is clear and to help grow new expertise
- To act as a local consultant on Child protection work for medical, sexual health, mental health and advocacy staff working at the Child House, to provide guidance, support and direction as necessary, ensuring that standards and skills are maintained and developed
- To chair strategy meetings, care planning meetings and case conferences as required in particular with complex cases when or if required

People Management Responsibilities:

There are no direct reports to this position, but this role is expected to provide expert advice and also training and development for other social care professionals across different service providers across the 5 NCL boroughs.

Relationships:

The candidate will be professionally managed by the Quality Assurance Unit but will be based in, and will operationally report to the Child House manager and work within the Child House priorities and standards. The post holder will work closely/substitute for their colleague social work liaison office to ensure continuous service across the extended opening hours of 10am-8pm Monday to Saturday, and Sunday 10am – 1pm.

The post holder will be required to liaise with various teams and services across the 5 NCL Councils and Camden Safeguarding Boards.

Key contacts are likely to include:

- Child House manager and joint clinical leads
- Child House team including paediatricians, child and young people's advocates and therapists
- Police Liaison Officer(s) in Child House
- Five NCL Local Authority officers including: children's social care teams, MASH, MASE
- Safeguarding Board members including a link to Adult Safeguarding boards
- Health Authorities such as NHS Provider Trusts and CCGs
- Government departments and agencies
- Voluntary and independent agencies
- *Officers across the councils – primarily but not limited to education, adult services, housing*
- Officers in other local authorities, London-wide bodies and central Government departments
- Other public agencies

The post holder will be dealing with situations where the content and outcome may not be straightforward. They will be required to make decisions on their own workload on a regular basis and assist colleagues in problem solving and achieving desired outcomes.

Work Environment:

The position is office based in the NCL Child House in Camden, although the post holder may be expected to travel across boroughs as part of the role.

Technical Knowledge and Experience:

- CQSW or equivalent, specific training undertaken in child protection, independent reviewing of children looked after and working with Children in Need with at least five / seven years post qualifying experience.
- Registration held with the HCPC.
- Experience of working in multi-disciplinary teams and dealing with complex multi-agency issues including health and the criminal justice system
- Experience of social work supervision within a management setting
- Post qualifying advanced training in the whole spectrum of child care work
- Significant experience in chairing child care planning meetings and other complex meetings.
- Experience of working with children and families, including child protection work in a multi-racial urban community.
- Experience of student supervision.
- Knowledge and understanding of child care legislation.
- Knowledge of the significant issues in the management of child care planning
- Knowledge of new policy and practice developments in child care practice, guidance and policy development
- An understanding of how adult social care and social housing services are structured and accessed
- An understanding of the implications of Health and Safety legislation.

Camden Way Five Ways of Working

In order to continue delivering for the people of Camden in the face of ever increasing financial pressure, we need to transform the way we do things. We call this the Camden Way. The Camden Way is a key part of our transformation strategy often referred to as the transformation triangle which links the Camden Plan, the Camden Way and the Financial Strategy together.

The Camden Way illustrates the approach that should underpin everything we do through five ways of working:

- Deliver for the people of Camden
- Work as one team
- Take pride in getting it right
- Find better ways
- Take personal responsibility

For further information on the Camden Way please visit by clicking [HERE](#)