



JOB DESCRIPTION

POST:	Support Worker
LOCATION:	East Midlands
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Service Co-ordinator (or nominee)
DBS CHECK:	This post is subject to Adult Workforce Regulations

JOB PURPOSE:

To improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness in Derbyshire by providing direct support services and accommodation on an individual basis. This includes being a point of contact with referring agents and working alongside partnership agencies to maximise positive outcomes for our clients.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

DELIVERING SERVICE

- Work with clients following assessment to access them into the accommodation as appropriate, offering supported opportunities for them to improve their quality of life, develop their skills and make decisions about their future
- Act as individual 'Keyworker' to a group of identified clients, taking lead responsibility within P3 (and acting as lead contact with other services) for the co-ordination and delivery of their support
- Work within P3's policies and style of operation - this will include tasks and day to day decision making relating to:
 - Providing general practical and emotional support to clients in order to promote their independence and recovery
 - Responding appropriately to chaotic and challenging behaviour to promote the well-being of clients and staff
 - To undertake training e.g. through attendance at formal courses
 - Providing an effective and responsive supportive service
- Participate in the staff team's provision of individual support and needs assessment, including risk assessment, advice, emotional support and practical assistance.
- Liaise with Referral Teams/Agencies regarding vacancies and referrals.

- Participate in assessing and reviewing future housing and support needs, and in identifying and co-ordinating internal and external services and referrals in response to these.
- Keep appropriate records of interventions with clients and inform other staff of relevant issues.
- Facilitate regular consultation and action to enable clients to make decisions concerning their resettlement options with a view to independent living.
- Assist in arranging appointments with the relevant professionals e.g. Social Workers, Probation Officers, and Medical Staff.
- Provide advice and assistance to clients on personal budgeting, debt management and claims for welfare benefits, ensuring rent and personal charge payments are made on time and appropriate benefits are in place.
- Encourage client involvement in the development and operation of the service, facilitating appropriate consultation and participation.
- Work alongside colleagues to develop activities and groups offering meaningful occupation.
- Where necessary prompt and encourage clients in relation to personal hygiene and personal appearance.
- Participate in a rota, where necessary, to ensure adequate cover is maintained for service delivery, where appropriate; be able to work flexibly to meet the needs of the service.
- Share responsibility for the effective use of information systems and procedures regarding clients and other records, eg finance and staff communications.

TEAM WORK

- Be a member of the staff team working to provide a safe, sound and supportive environment.
- Participate, with other staff, in providing a broad range of activities and services (which take into account individual clients circumstances and preferences) aimed at enabling clients to live with reducing levels of support when appropriate.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY

- Help keep the properties/project functioning, clean and in good repair, including:
 1. making arrangements for repairs;
 2. dealing with disputes between clients
- Assist in ensuring effective housing management including:

- Ensuring that rent arrears policies are administered according to the needs and capabilities of clients and that they are advised and assisted to claim welfare benefits and make payments as appropriate.
- Monitoring and ensuring the prompt notification of vacancies, preparation of empty units, and investigation of possible abandonment's, so that voids are minimised.
- Monitoring and ensuring that rent and service charges are paid regularly and accounted for in the proper manner.
- Ensuring that the inspection of rooms/properties and undertaking of minor repairs take place where possible, and making appropriate arrangements to deal with all other repair and maintenance issues within agreed timescales, and in accordance with tenancy agreements and management agreements.
- To liaise appropriately with partner Landlords and Contractors to ensure that planned and day to day maintenance works are identified and carried out with appropriate timescales.
- Work with clients to ensure skills are in place to maintain tenancy.
- Deal with complaints in accordance with P3's agreed procedures.
- Ensure service meets the quality agenda as set out by Local Authority and continually strive to improve service delivery
- Share responsibility for good health and safety practices, including participating in fire drills and risk assessments, reporting to line-management any matters of concern and attend health and safety training.
- Ensure effective liaison with the Health and Safety Officer wherever necessary.

DEVELOPMENT

- Undertake the Staff Induction Programme, and assist, as requested, in the induction and training of new staff, students and volunteers.
- Participate in staff meetings, supervision meetings, training, team development sessions and other meetings as required, reporting back to the team as appropriate.

DELIVERING EQUALITY

- Foster the equality, diversity and rights of others by ensuring people are respected and valued as individuals
- Promote the rights and needs of people who use P3 services in the community.
- Work within the framework of P3's equality and diversity policy at all times.

OTHER

- Undertake such other duties and specialisms, as may be required from time to time to maintain or enhance P3's services.
- The employee may on occasions, and in necessary circumstances, be called upon to undertake work in other locations in order to ensure P3's obligations to clients are fulfilled.
- Undertake all duties in accordance with all P3 policies and work towards their continuing development and implementation.
- Commitment to ensuring safeguarding training is relevant and current and safeguarding procedures when necessary are adhered to.

All job descriptions are subject to periodic review.

This job description covers the range of duties required. It is P3 policy to, wherever possible, reach agreement on changes, however if this is not possible, P3 reserves the right to change the job description in line with the needs of the organisation.

**P3
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

Support Worker

	Essential	Desirable
<p>Values Must be able to demonstrate the following values;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to client involvement and empowerment. • Promotion of equality of opportunity for people who have experienced oppression and disadvantage in their life opportunities. • Recognise and value all aspects of diversity • Understanding of and commitment to the importance of accessing training, learning and development opportunities • Understanding of those who use our services being enabled to have greater opportunities to exercise their rights 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	
<p>Experience It is essential that you are able to demonstrate experience of one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one years professional experience of homelessness • Personal experience of homelessness • At least three years experience of providing care and/or support services within another social care setting. 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	

<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a sound understanding of the support needs of people who use our services • An understanding of the effects homelessness has on individuals • An understanding of Local Authority legislation • Knowledge of issues surrounding alcohol and substance misuse • Knowledge of benefits system • Knowledge and understanding of housing provision • Knowledge and understanding of external partner agencies • Basic understanding of computers 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>Skills and Abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work on own initiative • Able to work as an integral member of a team • Must be able to establish and maintain constructive relationships with a wide range of people including providers in external agencies • Must demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills • Must have ability to maintain accurate client records • Able to travel around the region • Ability to work shifts throughout a 24 hour period • Must be able to respond flexibly to the needs of clients • Full UK Drivers Licence and use of a vehicle 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>
<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVQ/QCF Level 2 or 3 in a social care field • There must be substantial evidence of commitment to personal and career development relevant to the post. 	<p></p> <p>✓</p>	<p></p> <p>✓</p>