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| |  | | --- | |  | | **Independent Chair and Scrutineer**  Thank you for your interest in applying for the above post. Please find attached the Job Description and Person Specification for the role. | | **Working for Stockport Council** | | **Macintosh SSD:Users:tony.collinge:Desktop:values_job_description:STAR_logo_and_values.jpg**  Stockport Council has 4 core values that run through everything we do and are known as the Stockport Way of doing things. As an organisation we stay true to them no matter what challenges we face. The values came from colleagues and were developed through workshops and consultation across the Council.  [This video,](https://play.buto.tv/3My87) produced 'in house' and featuring colleagues from across the Council, explains each value and shows how colleagues are living these values each day.  As a new colleague the Council will expect you to work in accordance with these values. We also have policies and procedures around health, safety and welfare, customer care, emergency, evacuation, security and promotion of the Council’s priorities which we expect you to adhere to. These will be explained in detail to you as part of your induction process.  You can find out more about working for Stockport Council, and some of the benefits we offer employees, online at <https://greater.jobs/locations/stockport/>  H:\Directorate Services Team\Recruitment (Annalie Burns' Team)\Recruitment\OTHER\Diversity and Inclusion\DISABILITY CONFIDENT\employer_small.png |   green band epsStockport Council  **Job Description** | |
| Post Title: Independent Chair and Scrutineer for the Safeguarding Partnerships  **Service Area: Safeguarding and Learning**  **Directorate: People - Children**  **Team: Safeguarding Partnerships** | Salary Grade: £550 per day including expenses for up to 40 days a year. |
| **Post Reports to: Pam Smith, Chief Executive and Strategic leads for the three statutory safeguarding partnerships**  **Post Responsible for: Providing independent scrutiny to the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board.** | |
| **Main Purpose of the Job:**  The Independent Scrutineer/Chair is accountable to the strategic leads appointed by the three safeguarding partners and will provide scrutiny, challenge and seek assurance from partners on the effectiveness of the children and adult safeguarding arrangements across Stockport, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases and serious adult reviews.  Consider and as necessary, report upon how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families at risk and practitioners and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership. | |
| **Summary of responsibilities and key areas:**  The Children Act 2004 and as amended by Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the three safeguarding partners to have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 has set out the arrangements for an independent scrutiny function, which should provide the critical challenge and appraisal of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The role of Scrutineer/Chair will be independent of the Safeguarding Partnership.  The Care Act 2014 laid out the duty to have a Safeguarding Adults Board in order to help and protect adults in is area. The Safeguarding Adults Boards seeks to achieve its objective by coordingating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its member does.  In Stockport we have strong links between the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. This role will cover both partnerships and will be driving the joint working between the two groups.  The Independent Scrutineer/Chair is accountable to the strategic leads appointed by the three safeguarding partners and will provide scrutiny, challenge and seek assurance from partners on the effectiveness of the children and adult safeguarding arrangements across Stockport, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases and safeguarding adult reviews.    Consider and as necessary, report upon how effectively the arrangements are working for children, families and adults at risk and practitioners and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership. | |
| **Job activities:**   1. Provide independent scrutiny to the Safeguarding Partnership ensuring that it fulfils its statutory responsibilities set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Care Act 2014 and other related guidance to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults in Stockport. 2. To provide effective and objective scrutiny and challenge and act as constructive critical friend as well as promoting reflection to drive continuous improvement to both the partnership and safeguarding practice.      1. To consider how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong and effective leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.      1. To provide assurance to the Safeguarding Partners that organisations have strategies in place for addressing priorities, gaps and risks and how effective they are.      1. To seek assurance regarding the robustness and effectiveness of local multi-agency arrangements in Darlington to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults and to report areas of weakness and highlight areas of strength to the safeguarding partners.      1. To scrutinise how organisations hold each other to account to take corrective action and to improve services where issues of poor performance and practice are identified.      1. To assist and provide independent advice when there are any conflicts of interest between the key statutory leads.      1. Listen to the experiences of children, young people, adults with care and support needs and their families to ascertain how effectively local arrangements are working for them.      1. Provide opportunities for an independent perspective of frontline practice through direct conversations with practitioners and how effectively the arrangements are working for them.      1. Report to the safeguarding partners any recommendations from their scrutiny and/or assurance activities      1. Provide independent oversight and scrutiny on serious child safeguarding cases and safeguarding adult reviews ensuring that reviews are undertaken rigorously in line with statutory guidance and acting as liaison between the Safeguarding Partners and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel on cases relating to children. To challenge decisions on behalf of the partnership on the commissioning of reviews and publication arrangements.      1. To scrutinise the findings and outcomes of any safeguarding reviews and hold agencies to account for the effective implementation of recommendations identified.      1. Facilitate the effective operation of multi-agency safeguarding partnership meetings including chairing of meetings and following up progress on decisions and recommendations identified 2. To represent the partnership at the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children’ and Young People scrutiny on an annual basis..      1. Contribute to the content of the partnership’s annual reports on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for both children and adults, their performance and the effectiveness of local services.      1. To engage in inspection related activity across the partnership. | |
| **Additional responsibilities:**  To work positively and inclusively with colleagues and customers so that the Council provides a workplace and delivers services that do not discriminate against people on the ground of their age, sexuality, religion or belief, race, gender or disabilities.  To fulfill personal requirements, where appropriate, with regard to Council policies and procedures, standards of attendance, health, safety and welfare, customer care, emergency, evacuation, security and promotion of the Council’s priorities.  To work flexibly in the interests of the service. This may include undertaking other duties provided that these are appropriate to the employee’s background, skills and abilities. Where this occurs there will be consultation with the employee and any necessary personal development will be taken into account. | |

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Stockport Council

Competency Person Specification

The criteria listed below represent the most important skills, experience, technical expertise and qualifications needed for this job role.

Your application will be assessed against these criteria to determine whether or not you are shortlisted for interview.  Any interview questions, or additional assessments (tests, presentations etc) will be broadly based on the criteria below.

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| **Competency** | **Essential or Desirable** |
| To work to the Council’s values and behaviours:   * To keep the people of **Stockport** at the heart of what we do * To succeed as a **team**, collaborating with colleagues and partners * To drive things forward with **ambition**, creativity and confidence * To value and **respect** our colleagues, partners and customers | Essential |
| Educated to degree level in a relevant field (e.g. health, education, criminal justice, social care) or equivalent work experience. | Essential |
| A minimum of 2 years’ experience and/or background of effective involvement at an operational and strategic level in a relevant field in either the private, public or voluntary sector. | Essential |
| Experience of working at a strategic level within a multi-disciplinary context. | Essential |
| Experience of independent scrutiny and quality assurance functions. | Essential |
| Experience of promoting the welfare of children and/or adults, through previous or current professional or voluntary activities. | Essential |
| Experience, knowledge and an understanding of statutory and voluntary organisations and how they work. | Essential |
| Significant and demonstrable evidence of chairing skills within complex multi-agency arenas. | Essential |
| A proven track record of having influenced and negotiated successfully at a strategic level across agencies, disciplines, and sectors. | Essential |
| Experience of developing and maintaining strong strategic relationships to ensure effective governance of and between partnerships. | Essential |
| Extensive knowledge of the safeguarding children and adult agendas including the Children Act 2004, Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance. | Essential |
| A good understanding of relevant regulations and operational context of safeguarding work to enable well rounded contributions to considering case issues, e.g. professional challenges or Child /Safeguarding Practice Reviews/Safeguarding Adult Reviews. | Essential |
| Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, research, Inspection regimes and sector led improvement activity. | Essential |
| A good understanding of the Data Protection Act and information sharing. | Essential |
| Experience of dealing with the media and the ability to promote the work of Safeguarding Partnership. | Desirable |
| Experience of supporting and advising a multi-agency partnership of how to resolve professional disagreements. | Essential |
| Experience of involving the wider community in consultation and decision making at all levels including contributing to strategic plans and developments**.** | Essential |
| TO BE INCLUDED WHEN THE ROLE IS COVERED BY THE FLUENCY DUTY (SEE GUIDANCE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT ON CONNECT)  The ability to converse at ease with service users/customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English. | Essential |
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