**CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER COUNCIL**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **JOB TITLE:** | Best Interest Assessor |
| **EVALUATION REFERENCE:** | SASC 6735 |
| **GRADE:** | 9 |
| **RESPONSIBLE TO:** | Team Manager |

**JOB PURPOSE:**

The Best Interest Assessor will be employed to carry out statutory independent assessment duties as defined by the Mental Capacity Act. The Social Worker - Best Interest Assessor will be accountable to the Mental Capacity Act Coordinator and the Supervisory Body

# **PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

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| 1 | Undertake Best Interest Assessments for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) process within legal timeframes |
| 2 | Liaise with mental health assessors, advocates, care homes and hospitals as required as part of the assessment process in order to ensure best interest outcomes are achieved |
| 3 | Undertake a consultative role, based on developing skills, experience and expertise in order that best practice and understanding of DOLS is achieved in other professionals |
| 4 | Ensure practice and procedures are compliant with regulations, Mental Capacity Act and in line with the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Code of Practice |
| 5 | Act as a resource for care home/hospital settings |
| 6 | To contribute to the efficient and effective management of Adult Safeguarding Unit by ensuring cases are managed within framework and timeframes |
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NOTE

Notwithstanding the detail in this job description, the job holder will undertake such work as may be determined by the Manager from time to time, up to or at a level consistent with the Principal Responsibilities of the job.

This role is a **flexible worker style** and this means that the role will work at the most effective locations and at the most effective times, respecting the needs of the task, the customer, the individual and the team. Many services and customers span across the Borough and therefore you may be required to work at any location in Cheshire West and Chester.

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**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| **Qualifications** | Evidence of relevant specialist skills – **Essential**  Willingness to undertake and achieve – **Essential**  Evidence of relevant post Graduate Course – **Essential**  Degree/Diploma in Social Work – **Desirable**  Qualified Best Interests Assessor under Mental Capacity Act 2005 – **Essential** | |
| **Experience** | Experience of educating, training and mentoring staff – **Essential**  Experience of working to adult levels – **Essential**  Substantial experience of assessment and management – **Desirable**  Experience of working alongside multi-disciplinary colleagues – **Desirable**  Experience of completing Deprivation Of Liberty Safeguards Authorisation assessments – **Desirable** | |
| **Job Related Knowledge** | Sound knowledge of IT and computer systems such as Microsoft word – **Essential**  Excellent communication skills – **Desirable**  Excellent motivational skills both personal and with others – **Desirable**  Good Team Worker – **Desirable**  Able to organise and prioritise – **Desirable**  Ability to critically appraise and identify opportunities for improvement – **Desirable**  Excellent 'crisis management' skills – **Desirable**  Able to take the lead in high risk situations – **Desirable**  Ability to cope with change and assist others in same – **Desirable**  Aware of and fully participate in good anti-discriminatory practice – **Desirable** | |
| **Skills and Aptitudes** | Current Social Work Council registration – **Desirable**  Valid driving licence and use of car – **Desirable** | |
| **Other Requirements** | Enhanced DBS [*plus Childrens/Adults Barred List*]  The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English | |
| **Competencies** | Teamwork Level 3  Honesty Level 3  Respect Level 3  Innovation Level 3  Value For Money Level 3  Empowerment Level 3 | |