

DV-ACT and PAI Family Safety Assessments

Domestic Abuse Sessional Assessors

Application Pack

Job description

DVACT and PAI primarily work in the area of child protection, specialising in expert assessments of the parents' capacity to protect their children from exposure to domestic or sexual abuse. Work is completed in your own home utilising the video link technology that thrived under covid. Assessors are supported with case and clinical supervision as well as administrative support. Reports are peer reviewed before being filed with the court in child care proceedings.

This is a specialist subcontractor role where work is undertaken on a sessional basis. An assessment consists of approximately 30-43 hours of work – depending on whether 1 or 2 parents are assessed – and is completed within a timescale of 6-8 weeks. The work primarily consists of reading court documents, interviewing clients and then writing thorough and detailed assessment reports.

1. Undertaking detailed risk assessments of perpetrators.
2. Completing (vulnerability) assessments of mothers who have experienced domestic abuse and have been unable to protect their child/ren.
3. Making initial contact with clients, setting up appointments, reading relevant documents, interviewing (by video link), completing the agency's inventories and maintaining written records.
4. Writing detailed reports to a high standard using the agency templates.
5. Liaising with colleagues including the practice manager and clinical manager to accept referrals, give timescales and updating on assessments.
6. Attending court to give expert evidence.

We are also looking for psychologists who can undertake cognitive testing of parents that can sometimes form part of our domestic abuse risk assessments.

Children at the heart of domestic abuse practice

DV-ACT Ltd -: <https://www.dvact.org/> | Registered in England and Wales no: 11379215

Partner Abuse Interventions Ltd - : <http://www.fsa.me.uk/> | Registered in England and Wales no: 6397959

Person Specification

Essential Experience

1. A minimum of 4 years' experience of *direct* work with perpetrators towards helping them stop their abuse of partners and children.
2. A minimum of 4 years' experience working in the field of domestic violence or offending behaviours.
3. Experience of working with clients from different ethnic minorities.
4. Experience of report writing at a high level.
5. Experience of working with vulnerable adults (if successful, you will be asked to complete a DBS check).
6. Experience of writing reports for the courts.
7. Experience of liaison with other professionals at a high level.
8. Experience of interviewing both men and women to elucidate attitudes and feelings in addition to facts.

Desirable Experience

1. Experience of working with families in a child protection context.
2. Experience of giving evidence in court as an expert witness.
3. Experience of working within the family courts.

Essential Knowledge

1. Familiarity with the dominant themes in domestic violence literature; in particular assessors must have an understanding of the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and an ability to apply this to individual cases.
2. An understanding of the nature of domestic violence and its effects on victims and children.
3. An understanding of why perpetrators use abusive behaviours towards intimate partners and the range of models used in addressing this behaviour.
4. An understanding of the criminal justice system and family courts system in relation to domestic violence.
5. Familiarity with the leading domestic violence risk assessment approaches (e.g. SARA).
6. An understanding of child development insofar as it relates to the assessment process, and a working knowledge of child protection procedures.
7. At least postgraduate-level or equivalent qualifications in Social Work, Psychology, Criminology or other relevant disciplines.

Essential Skills

1. Skills in report writing at a professional level and excellent use of written English.
2. The ability to communicate clearly with a range of people (over the telephone, in person, on paper, and as an expert witness in court) over sensitive and complex issues.
3. Proven ability to work to rigid deadlines.
4. The ability to manage administration tasks, to be able to use a computer, particularly word processing packages, and to maintain effective administrative systems.
5. A high level of competence in using video link technology such as Zoom, Teams etc.

Essential Attitudes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of diversity in employment and service delivery and a commitment to working to promote equality across all genders, ages, disabilities, sexualities, religions or ethnicities.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of and a commitment to work in accordance with the policies and ethos of the organisation.
3. Willingness to develop practice through regular feedback, peer discussion and supervision.
4. A commitment to promoting the safety of children exposed to domestic abuse.

Psychologists

We would also welcome applications from HCPC registered psychologists who have relevant and proven clinical experience in a related field to complete expert psychological assessments in cases where domestic abuse is identified as a concern.