

# Job Description & Person Specification

## Expert Assessor in Domestic Abuse – Sessional

### Role Overview

You will conduct comprehensive, specialised assessments of perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse as part of evidence gathering in child protection cases. You will write detailed and clear reports outlining the static and dynamic risks with realistic safeguarding plans. This highly specialised role combines clinical insight with structured risk assessment tools to evaluate the risks to specific persons and the likelihood of re-offending. You will help family courts to understand the typology, the drivers of the behaviour, and advise on risk management and safeguarding plans.

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.

### 1 Key Responsibilities

- a. **Clinical Assessment:** Conduct in-depth clinical interviews and administer validated, evidence-based psychometric tests and inventories.
- b. **Collateral Review:** Analyse extensive case files, including children’s services records, police reports, victim statements, previous convictions, and psychological histories.
- c. **Risk Formulation & Mitigation:** Identify both dynamic (changeable) and static (unchangeable) risk factors, as well as protective factors, to formulate comprehensive risk profiles.
- d. **Report Writing** Produce highly detailed, objective forensic reports for child protection teams and the family courts. Collaborate in peer review and supervision.
- e. **Expert testimony:** Provide clear, evidence-based testimony as an expert witness when required.
- f. **Consultation & Advice:** Advise practitioners and case workers on intervention strategies and safety planning.

### 2 Essential Qualifications & Requirements

- a. Education: Post graduate degree or professional post graduate qualification in a relevant subject.

- b. Accreditation/Registration: Must hold active registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or other relevant regional regulatory body.
- c. Experience: Minimum of 3–5 years of post-qualification experience in forensic, probation or third sector settings, with a specific focus on domestic abuse.

### **3 Essential Knowledge**

- a. Familiarity with the dominant themes in domestic abuse literature; in particular assessors must have an understanding of the nature and dynamics of domestic abuse and an ability to apply this to individual cases.
- b. An understanding of the nature of domestic abuse and its long and short term impacts on children exposed to conflict.
- c. An understanding of typologies of domestic abusers and the range of models used in addressing this behaviour.
- d. An understanding of the criminal justice system and family courts system in relation to domestic abuse.
- e. Familiarity with the leading domestic abuse risk assessment approaches.
- f. An understanding of child development insofar as it relates to the assessment process, and a working knowledge of child protection procedures.

### **4 Essential Skills & Core Competencies**

- a. Exceptional report writing ability with excellent written English.
- b. High emotional intelligence and willingness to continue professional development through peer review.
- c. Ability to recognise coercive control, disguised compliance and other key behaviours associated with domestic abuse.
- d. The ability to conduct investigative interviews, elicit information and organise evidence.
- e. The capacity to recognise and manage vicarious trauma in a trauma-informed manner (*Note: As this role involves regular contact with distressing material and vulnerable populations, strong clinical supervision and self-care protocols are strictly enforced*).
- f. Ability to synthesise complex, multi-source information into a coherent and useful analysis.
- g. Capacity to remain impartial, evidence-based, and objective in highly emotionally charged, complex, and adversarial environments.
- h. Proven ability to work to rigid deadlines.
- i. The ability to manage administration tasks effectively.
- j. A high level of competence in using video link technology such as Zoom, Teams etc.

- k. **Communication:** Ability to convey complex clinical information to non-clinical stakeholders, such as judges, parole board members, and family support workers.

## **5 Essential experience**

- a. A minimum of 4 years' experience of *assessing and working* with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- b. Experience of working with clients from different ethnic minorities.
- c. Experience of report writing at a high level.
- d. Experience of working with vulnerable adults (if successful, you will be asked to complete a DBS check).
- e. Experience of writing reports for the courts.
- f. Experience of liaison with other professionals at a high level.
- g. Experience of interviewing both men and women to elucidate attitudes and feelings in addition to facts.

## **6 Desirable Experience**

- a. Experience of working with actuarial tools and psychometric instruments to assist in predictive accuracy.
- b. Experience of working with families in a child protection context.
- c. Experience of giving evidence in court as an expert witness.
- d. Experience of working within the family courts.

## **7 Essential Attitudes**

- a. 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.
- b. Demonstrate an understanding of and a commitment to work in accordance with the policies and ethos of the organisation.
- c. Willingness to develop practice through regular feedback, peer discussion and supervision.
- d. A commitment to promoting the safety of children exposed to sexual abuse.

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