



Role Profile

Strategic Commissioner – Children Looked After
Children's Services

Role Profile: Strategic Commissioner- Children Looked After	Role Profile Number: SBC_11186
Directorate: Children's Services	Reporting to: Service Manager – Children Looked After
Grade: CFL 11	Date Prepared: April 2026

Our Values

Our [Values](#) shape how we work for the people of Swindon. They guide how we make decisions, how we deliver services and how we work with our communities and partners.

Our Values are:

We SEE – people, not problems – and stay curious to understand their story.

We HEAR – each other and the people we serve

We CARE – about our colleagues, our residents and our community

We ACT – with integrity, accountability and purpose

We LEARN – from data, feedback and experience so we keep improving

These five values describe the standards we hold ourselves to as a Council, and what residents and partners can expect from us.

The Swindon Commitment

The [Swindon Commitment](#) shows how we bring our Values to life every day, in every role, across all that we do. It turns our Values into practical promises between the Council, our colleagues and the people we serve so we can work together to deliver the best possible services and support.

Created with colleagues from across the organisation, the Swindon Commitment sets out a shared understanding of how we work, lead and behave. Rooted in our five core values, it reflects how we listen to, include and respond to residents, communities and each other.



Purpose:

To deliver rapid and significant service improvement, reshape and overhaul the way in which the council commissions and provides placements and services for children and develop and sustain effective relationships with commissioned providers, ~Independent Fostering Agencies and Networks.

To strategically manage and lead a pro-active response to developing approaches to current and future service delivery and provision of placements for children looked after, leading on the development of strategic solutions to complex, cross-cutting policy and service challenges, including financial challenges. To ensure that relevant data and qualitative information is interpreted and analysed effectively in order to identify service strengths and priorities for service improvement and opportunities to better commission placements and services for children.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities:

- Be responsible for providing a high-quality needs analysis using all relevant data sources in relation to children looked after, ensuring insight informs strategy development, policy decisions and service improvement to enhance and maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the services
- Lead on the strategic commissioning of placements and services for children looked after, driven by a robust evidence-based commissioning strategy and plan.
- Work with managers to develop a deeper insight into their business, including in respect of customers/service users, the relative cost of services, and service quality.
- Manage, and analyse the market, identifying opportunities for Swindon Children's Services to stimulate and develop the market with established and new providers and develop innovative joint projects with stakeholders to be responsive to need and local opportunities, for example social enterprises.
- Lead on the development and implementation of an outcomes and performance framework and provide strong challenge and leadership to hold providers to account for performance and ensure that placements and services provide value for money, effectively managing risk and underperformance.
- To lead on the management and reporting of the CFCH commissioning budget and ensure clear financial strategies are in place to achieve efficiencies.
- Ensure Service Managers have clear single points of contact for support on strategy and insight for looked after children providing them with input to performance commentary so

performance and strategy inform each other.

- Provide the professional lead for all aspects of the commissioning cycle across CFCH with regards to looked after children providing leadership, guidance and technical support working closely with partners (including via pooled budget arrangements/joint commissioning arrangements with education/health) and engaging service users in the design of services.
- Lead on the development of specifications for CLA commissioned services with clear outcomes and expectations, procuring services appropriately in line with relevant statutory frameworks and legislation., Work closely with social worker team managers and the Placements Team to ensure a consistent approach is taken across CFCH to meeting the needs of children and young people and ensuring value for money, underpinned by robust policies, procedures and frameworks
- Lead on the development and ownership of relationships with strategic alliances, maximising opportunities to improve outcomes and reduce costs as appropriate
- Work closely and collaboratively with corporate enabling services including procurement, legal services and finance to ensure that both current and future needs of CFCH and service users are met to a consistently high standard.

Professional

- Developing and maintaining effective relationships and communication with internal and/or external service users, providing expertise and technical assistance in a specialist area including the following:
- All professionals and stakeholders at a senior level e.g. Education. Health, Police, Housing, voluntary sector organisations, Senior Managers and Elected Members.
- Social Care Management Teams.
- Key managers and heads of service across the council including enabling services. .
- Providers of placements and services at CE/senior management level

Decision making:

- Prioritising key intervention work, determining strategies and ensuring timely progression of plans.
- Swiftly understand, interpret and deliver complex information to a range of audiences.
- Able to make sound decisions independently for matters related to this field.
- Organise and prioritise work skillfully to maximise effectiveness and impact.
- Ability to work flexibly under pressure and with resilience.
- Ability to make complex decisions that will have direct impact on children and young people and have political and far reaching consequences on safeguarding matters.

Creativity and innovation

- Record of delivering successful and innovative solutions to business challenges.
- Ability to analyse complex information quickly, reaching and articulating decisions with clarity, to deliver solutions that command support.

- Proven record of achievement in delivering service improvement, logical and effective decision making, high quality, accurate and timely work.
- Capable of reviewing and evaluating results against quality standards, sharing this learning with others and taking decisive action to ensure that plans are delivered.
- Demonstrates a dynamic and achievement orientated culture.
- Ability to work effectively, flexibly and constructively with colleagues in a team where team members work positively to a shared goal.
- Actively contributes to the creation of an open, and interdependent culture.

Job Scope

Number and types of jobs managed:	N/A
Budget Holder:	No
Budget Value:	N/A
Asset Responsibility:	N/A

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications:	Essential or Desirable
• Qualified to Degree level with experience of, or evidenced interest in, the needs and wellbeing of children in care, which may include experience of health, education, youth, social work, early years or similar. • Recognised relevant qualifications in Commissioning/procurement and/or equivalent experience and training in a related field. • Recognised relevant qualifications in Data analysis and/or equivalent experience and training in a related field. • Project management training/experience desirable. • Management qualification or on the job experience supplemented with relevant training	E E E D E
Knowledge and Experience:	
<i>Candidates must have substantial knowledge and experience in the following areas of business and will be required to provide evidence of this:</i>	

• Experience of supporting others in the use of data analysis. • Ability to lead on complex policy, strategy development and commissioning projects with a track record of delivery to time and to budget. • Extensive knowledge, experience and understanding of delivering high quality and cost effective Children's Services through successful commissioning activities. • Extensive knowledge, experience and understanding of using data and its analysis for the benefit of the business. • Evidence of effective management and delivery in a complex environment including, managing change, financial management, performance management, people management and project management. • Successful experience and/or knowledge of working within a local authority, or in an equivalent Children's Service organisation/environment. Financial awareness with a proven ability to effectively manage budgets. Promote and safeguard the welfare of children, ensuring this principle, culture and practice is embedded in all business processes and communications, in compliance with national and local	E E E E E D E E
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Other Key Features of the role

It should be noted that the duties and tasks associate with this post may change from time to time without altering their general character or the level of responsibility entailed. The above duties and activities associated with this job are neither exclusive nor exhaustive and the job holder may be called upon to carry out other such appropriate duties as may be required within the grading level of the job.



