

To Prospective Candidates

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Internal: 74229

Our ref:

Date: Autumn 2014

I am very pleased that you are considering applying for a job as a qualified social worker with Central Bedfordshire. Our social workers tell us that this is a good authority to work for because:

- We are committed to ensuring that all social workers receive regular and frequent supervision and we closely monitor cases and staffing levels to ensure that case loads are manageable, increasing budget where necessary.
- With support from elected members we have twice expanded our teams to accommodate increased demand for services in recent years.
- Newly qualified social workers are well supported, with reduced caseloads and regular supervision.
- Managers are committed to development of both their teams and the service.
- We have a wide ranging learning and development programme, delivered through our Academy of Social Work & Early Intervention in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire.
- We will also support social workers in studying for MSc degrees
- Social workers have access to and use research, with managers committed to encouraging the application of research in practice

Furthermore we demonstrate real commitment to preventative services through early support in the Children's Centres and through accredited programmes such as Webster Stratton and Positive Parenting Plus, so that many families will not need the intervention of social work services. These programmes are also available to families with whom the social work teams work.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children judged us as good for safeguarding and adequate for children in care. Nearly all of the outcomes for children in care were good. However, we will be challenged by the raised standards required by the new Ofsted framework. We are actively addressing this challenge.

I do hope that you will applying to join us and I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services

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