Westmorland & Furness Council

Post Specification

Post Specification - Key Information

- **Post Title:** Lead Education Child Protection Advisor
- **Date:** October 2026
- **Post Group Number:** WAF0016
- **Job Family:** Organisational Support
- **Job Family Role Profile:** OS16
- **Final Grade:** 16

To be read in conjunction with the job family role profile.

Service Area Description

The Education and Inclusion Directorate within Children's Services works to safeguard children and young people, promote educational achievement and support positive outcomes for families. Working as part of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team, the service brings together professionals from across education, social care, health and partner agencies to assess risk, share information, and coordinate timely interventions to protect vulnerable children and ensure their welfare remains at the centre of decision-making.

Purpose of this Post

To act as the lead Education Child Protection Advisor within the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team, ensuring that children who are subject to Child Protection Plans have timely access to appropriate education that promotes their safety, wellbeing, attendance, achievement and positive outcomes.

The post holder will work collaboratively with education providers, Children's Services, and partner agencies to ensure that educational decision-making takes full account of safeguarding and child protection concerns, recognising the protective role that education plays in improving outcomes for vulnerable children. They will provide specialist advice, support, and challenge to education settings and professionals to promote attendance, participation, inclusion, and educational stability, ensuring children are supported to thrive and reach their potential.

The role will strengthen partnership working between education and safeguarding services, improve the quality of education's contribution to child protection planning, and ensure that barriers to education are identified and addressed as part of a coordinated multi-agency response.

Key Job Specific Accountabilities

- To Act as the strategic education safeguarding lead within the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team, providing specialist advice, consultation, and challenge to ensure education is effectively represented within strategy discussions, child protection planning, and decision-making processes.
- Provide strategic oversight across the Children and Families Directorate and the Education and Inclusion Directorate, identifying themes, trends, and emerging risks to inform service development, improve safeguarding practice, and champion positive educational outcomes for children and young people.

- Provide advice, guidance, and consultation to education providers across Westmorland and Furness in relation to children who are subject to Child Protection Plans, promoting best practice and safeguarding compliance.
- Support the effective coordination and timely progression of child protection activity, including facilitating education representation at meetings and ensuring educational input is available during school holiday periods and other times when delays may occur.
- Strengthen partnership working between Children's Services and educational settings to improve outcomes for children subject to Child Protection Plans, particularly those experiencing attendance difficulties, reduced timetables, exclusion, emotionally based school avoidance, or unmet additional needs.
- Act as a key liaison between Children's Services and education providers including electively home educated, facilitating access to specialist educational advice, information, and support across the wider education system.
- Promote the timely sharing of information between schools, Children's Services, and partner agencies, ensuring educational reports, assessments, and updates are provided to support effective child protection planning and review processes.
- Support the quality and consistency of education contributions to family reviews (Core Groups, Child Protection Conferences) and professional meetings such as Strategy Discussions.
- Develop the service and maintain positive working relationships with a broad range of education providers, including schools, colleges, alternative provision providers, and specialist settings, to ensure children subject to child protection planning can access education that meets their individual needs.
- Identify and escalate educational safeguarding concerns, barriers to education, and emerging risks.
- Contribute to multi-agency group supervision, reflective practice, and case discussions to promote effective safeguarding decision-making and continuous service improvement.
- Deliver advice, briefings, and learning opportunities to professionals to enhance understanding of the relationship between education, attendance, vulnerability, and child protection.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance, educational policy, attendance frameworks, and emerging practice developments, ensuring advice and decision-making reflect current national and local requirements.
- Contribute to service development, quality assurance activity, performance monitoring, and audits to strengthen education's role in safeguarding children and improving outcomes for vulnerable learners.

Please note: Annual targets will be discussed during the appraisal process.

Key Facts and Figures of the Post

- **Budget Responsibilities**:
  - No direct budget responsibilities
- **Staff Management Responsibilities:**
  - Provide effective line management including supervision, appraisal, wellbeing support, professional development, workload management and quality assurance of safeguarding practice.
- **Other:**
  - County wide remit across Westmorland and Furness

Essential Criteria

- **Qualifications:**
  - DfE recognised teaching qualification.
  - Degree or equivalent qualification.

    - Evidence of commitment to on-going professional development.
- **Knowledge:**
    - Level 3 safeguarding or be willing to obtain
    - Good knowledge of legislation including GDPR, statutory guidance, and policy relating to education, safeguarding, and child protection, including Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education and The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act.
    - Specialist knowledge of the role education plays in safeguarding children and reducing risk factors associated with abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, exploitation, and other forms of harm
    - Knowledge of the impact of trauma, adversity, neglect, domestic abuse, and other safeguarding concerns on children's development, wellbeing, engagement, and educational outcomes.
    - Knowledge of effective attendance and engagement strategies for vulnerable children, including those experiencing emotionally based school avoidance, reduced timetables, exclusion, or disrupted education.
- **Experience:**
    - 3 years minimum teaching experience or education support role working in an education setting.
    - Experience of working as a Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
    - Experience of developing effective partnerships and influencing practice across professional networks, including education providers, Children's Services, health, and police.
    - Experience of contributing to quality assurance, audit activity, service improvement, and the implementation of best practice.
    - Experience of providing professional advice, consultation, challenge, and support to schools and partner agencies in relation to safeguarding and educational inclusion.
- **Expertise:**
    - In-depth understanding of the education system, including attendance, inclusion, exclusions, alternative provision, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and elective home education.
    - Understanding of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and experience of contributing to child protection processes, including strategy discussions, Child Protection Conferences and Family Review Meetings (previously Child in Need and Core Group Meetings)
    - Able to apply current research and evidence-based practice to improve outcomes for children and support informed multi-agency decision-making.
    - Ability to analyse and interpret complex information from a range of sources to assess risk, identify barriers to education, and support effective safeguarding decision-making.
    - Understanding of the additional vulnerabilities and barriers faced by children with SEND and other groups at increased risk of poor educational outcomes.
    - Strong communication and relationship-building skills, with the ability to support, challenge, and influence professionals at all levels.
    - Commitment to continuous professional development and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding, education legislation, emerging research, and national policy developments.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

    - This post requires a DBS check. The level of check required is:
        - DBS Enhanced – Children

Politically Restricted Status

- This post is not politically restricted (delete as appropriate)

Job Working Circumstances

- **Emotional Demands:**
  - Working closely with practitioners supporting children and families who have experienced trauma and adversity, receiving, analysing, and responding to sensitive information concerning child abuse, neglect, and associated safeguarding risks
- **Physical Demands:**
  - None
- **Working Conditions:**
  - Ability to travel across Westmorland and Furness footprint, having a physical presence in Penrith, Kendal and Barrow office bases.

Other Factors:

- Attendance at meetings sometimes out of standard office hours