Onside is a voluntary organisation promoting the rights and interests of people facing disadvantage. We are all about people, supporting and empowering them to live the very best life possible. Onside works to strengthen communities and reduce loneliness, we ensure that the most vulnerable people are not alone and feel connected to the people and places closest to where they live.

**We have an opportunity within Worcestershire for**

**Parent Support Advocate**

**Up to 16 hours per week. Further opportunities are also available for freelance work across Herefordshire & Worcestershire**

**Starting Salary £19,000 per annum - £23,000 FTE (pro rata to hours offered)**

Onside are delighted to be have been awarded the contract to deliver advocacy to support vulnerable parents across Worcestershire. The service provides independent information, advice and advocacy to parents who would otherwise experience substantial difficulty in engaging in assessments and proceedings involving their children, ensuring that the views of parents and carers are represented throughout all such assessments, proceedings and court hearings.

Key Elements of the role;

* Provide independent direct advocacy to support parents who have additional needs ensuring:
  + - their rights and interests are represented
    - they are safeguarded
    - their voice is heard
    - they are informed, enabling the person to have as much participation with decisions around their children
* To attend any meetings or assessments in relation to decisions involving the persons children, supporting the individual to participate as fully as possible
* To attend any court hearings or directives involving the person’s children, supporting the individual to participate as fully as possible
* Where appropriate, refer and signpost service users to other agencies/services to ensure they are receiving effective support
* Maintain accurate and up to date case management records using Onside database
* Contribute to the monitoring and review of the service to include submitting case studies and recording service user feedback as required
* To liaise with internal and external agencies to ensure a consistent and comprehensive service is delivered at all times
* To demonstrate and apply knowledge of key legislation and guidance around children and families
* To seek regular feedback about the quality of services and the impact of the parental support advocacy service, preparing and providing both written and verbal feedback and reports on performance

We are seeking people with a real commitment to ensuring individuals’ rights and interests are represented and their voice is heard, in what can be extremely challenging and emotional circumstances. You must be a good listener, have time for people and be empathetic in your approach. You should have experience of working with people who are vulnerable and who often face complex social and emotional challenges. You will have great interpersonal skills enabling you to support people, enabling them to understand the processes and decision making and contribute effectively. Previous experience within an advocacy or related role would be beneficial.

It is essential to have an open-minded, non-judgemental, respectful attitude together with an ability to easily create partnerships based on trust. Sound judgement and reliability are fundamental alongside a warm, friendly personality. It is important to be able to understand the needs and wishes of the individual and support them in engaging constructively.

The work is challenging but rewarding and you will need to be resourceful, creative and highly organised with the ability to respond to change, manage a varied workload and work independently.

**If you would like to make a real difference to someone’s life and share our commitment to creating more inclusive communities we would like to hear from you.**

For an informal conversation or more information please call 01905 27525 and ask to speak to Sarah Hudson.

**Closing Date for Applications: Monday 26th July 2021 at 5pm**

**Interviews: w/c 2nd August 2021**

For an application pack or specific queries regarding the posts please contact:

**Elly Munslow, 01905 27525 or email: recruitment@onside-advocacy.org.uk**