

Just for Kids Law Youth Advocate

	Role Description
Role	Youth Advocate
Reporting to:	Advocacy Manager
Organisation purpose:	<p>Just for Kids Law exists to work with and for children and young people to hold those with power to account and fight for wider reform. We do this by providing legal representation and advice, direct advocacy and support, and through strategic litigation, campaigning and equipping others to work for children’s rights.</p>
Context:	<p>Our Programmes and Participation Directorate includes Youth Advocacy, support for young people around education, employment and training opportunities, participation and youth campaigning opportunities. The team works with children and young people aged 10 to 25 across London who face multiple difficulties and often have complex needs including facing school exclusion, homelessness, immigration issues, involvement in the care system and in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The Youth Advocacy Team is comprised of six Youth Advocates, reporting to two Advocacy Managers, who provide one-to-one advocacy support and group-based advocacy to children and young people facing a range of issues. Youth Advocates work closely with our legal team, make internal and external referrals for additional support needed.</p>
Role purpose	<p>The Youth Advocate provides high quality, holistic advocacy support, amplifying the voice of children and young people in challenging situations and supporting them to communicate their wishes and feelings. The advocate also provides accurate information, including access to specialist support, to enable young people to make informed decisions. The advocate does this by: working relationally with children and young people, being a positive, reliable and boundaried professional, providing pastoral support where needed, and supporting young people to be empowered to advocate for themselves.</p>

Key accountabilities	Key activities/tasks
Working with clients	<p>Upholding a positive, empowering approach to work with young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working respectfully and non-judgementally to engage children and young people who may not be engaging with other services • Being led by the young person and working at their pace • Supporting young people to be as independent and self-directed as possible and encouraging participation when appropriate • Maintaining appropriate, bounded relationships with young people • Developing an understanding of and keeping up to date with relevant policy and legislation • Acting on safeguarding and risk information in line with JfKL policies and procedures. <p>Providing high quality, one-to-one advocacy support to a caseload of young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to young people and developing a plan, alongside the young person, to address their individual support needs • Advocating to professionals on behalf of young people in a range of settings • Giving accurate, accessible, rights-based information to young people and seeking specialist information and advice, including legal support, when needed • Developing and maintaining up-to-date and accurate working knowledge of relevant policies and legislation • Ensuring standardisation of practice and development of the advocacy service by attending and contributing to regular in-house practice sharing and peer support meetings • Engaging with regular supervision and reflective practice sessions <p>Contributing to group-based advocacy workshops that build knowledge among children and young people of their rights and entitlements and how to self-advocate to secure these.</p>
Reporting and evaluation	<p>Maintaining accurate case records and monitoring and evaluating the service including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking outcomes-based monitoring of work with young people • Providing regular case updates and quarterly reports to line manager • Participating in production of funding reports for project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing JfKL at external events and to funders.
Partnership and team working	<p>Maintaining effective liaison with colleagues working across JfKL and in external organisations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending and participating in team meetings and other events including fundraising and training days • Identifying cases where policy and campaigning work could be undertaken • Contributing frontline experience to JfKL's campaign and sector change work • Networking and building relationships with external professionals and agencies supporting young people.
General responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending and participating in internal meetings as required • Being a positive, cooperative, and constructive team member, upholding the values of JfKL complying with JfKL's monitoring and recording requirements • Representing and promoting the organisation's work positively • Carrying out all work with due regard to JfKL's policies and procedures, including safeguarding, staff safety and our Code of Conduct • Promoting Equality and Diversity principles in all aspects of work.
Other duties	Carrying out any other duties which fall reasonably within this role.
<p>Updating this role description</p> <p>This is a description of the job as it is presently constituted. It is the practice of Just for Kids Law to periodically review role descriptions and to update them. This process will be conducted in consultation with you. It is the aim of the organisation to reach agreement on any changes but if agreement cannot be reached, the organisation reserves the right to insist on such changes to your job description, after consultation with you.</p>	



Person Specification

	Essential (must have in order to carry out the work)	Desirable (not essential but preferable)
Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the principles and practice of advocacy • Understanding of challenges young people can experience when interacting with services • Knowledge of young people’s rights and entitlements • Knowledge of services available for young people.= 	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>
Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of providing information and advice, advocacy or other relevant assistance to a vulnerable client group • Experience of working with young people • Experience of case work and assessing clients • Experience of youth work, social work or other relevant work. 	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p>
Qualifications and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training relevant to the post i.e. training/courses in youth work, advocacy, negotiation skills, how to advocate on someone’s behalf, mental health training, trauma etc 		<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>
Skills and abilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to develop relationships with and relate to a diverse range of young people • Excellent verbal and written communication skills • Ability to advocate on behalf of others • Ability to plan, record and organise work • Ability to create effective working relationships with other professionals • Ability to understand relevant legislation and policy • Ability to represent JfKL and the advocacy project at external meetings. 	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>

<p>Qualities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful of young people and able to champion effectively for their rights with a strong commitment to the principles and practice of advocacy • Energetic, self-motivated and organised individual who is prepared to throw themselves into the work of JfKL, work collaboratively and uphold our mission, vision and values • Flexible thinker who is able to respond in a positive and composed manner to unexpected changes in a young person’s case at short notice • Resilient, emotionally intelligent individual who understands the demands of frontline work with complex young people and upholds clear professional boundaries. 	<p style="text-align: center;">x x x x</p>	
<p>Other requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to meet clients and travel around London • Prepared to work out of hours occasionally • Willing to attend training 	<p style="text-align: center;">x x</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>

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