**Job title: Children and Young People Project Worker**

**Responsible to: Team Leader, Chief Executive, and Management Team**

**Responsible for: Assigned Volunteers, Social Work Students**

**Background information:**

Fortalice was established in 1977 to provide emergency accommodation and support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse within their own homes.

The organisation has expanded over the past years and now provides a wide range of services for women, families, children and young people within both the Refuge and the Outreach Support Centre. The ethos of Fortalice in relation to support is to focus on self-help, promoting self-esteem, confidence and independence to enable women to break free from abusive relationships and reduce the chance of re-victimisation thus moving on to a self-sustaining, independent life.

The post is based at the Outreach Support Centre with sessions held both within the building and out in the community.

**Main purpose of the job:**

The Children and Young People’s Project Worker will support children and young people from primary and secondary schools in the Bolton borough to work through trauma as a result of exposure to Domestic Abuse and Violence (DAV). Attendance and participation at multi-agency meetings is a key part of the role and through working collaboratively with external organisations, the Children and Young People’s Project Worker will assess, support and educate children and young people both individually and as part of group work sessions.

Much of the work will be community based with an office base within our Outreach Support Centre in Bolton. A lot of the service is ‘needs led’ with appointments and services being offered to meet the demands of the individual child / young person. Individual initial assessments may be followed up with further one to one work or group work session.

We consider the services we offer to children and young people a prime element of our work and there is significant responsibility in relation to support and practical assistance to help the children and young people recover from the domestic abuse they have experienced or are currently living with. Identifying and assisting with safeguarding issues is a key part of this role.

**Key Responsibilities**

* To appropriately plan the delivery for the various projects including creating, and using effectively assessment forms, evaluation tools to measure and record progress and outcomes, scheduling individuals sessions and the scheduling and delivery of group work sessions (session plans, venues, attendees etc.).
* Undertake initial and on-going risk/needs assessments with children and young people
* Supporting children and young people with complex issues including challenging behaviour, mental health issues, self-harm and risk taking behaviour.
* Deliver effective one to one sessions for children and young people to enable them to process their abuse and give them coping strategies, thus promoting an arena to develop stable and effective relationships.
* Deliver group sessions within the remit of the organisation’s various programmes.
* Promote advocacy for children and young people ensuring “the child’s voice” is heard and children’s wants and wishes are known to other professionals in the Safeguarding arena.
* To forge good working relationships with referring agencies and other partnership agencies, representing Fortalice professionally at all times.
* Identify and build good working relationships with appropriate venues and community services across the borough to ensure the service is available to all communities and all abilities.
* To ensure that the service provided meets the needs of children and young people and balances emotional health and well-being with that of safeguarding (child protection).
* Collect and analyse statistics and service outputs, identify trends and gaps in service provision.
* To maintain accurate and up to date records of contact with children, young people, parents and professionals in accordance with GDPR and Fortalice procedures.
* Complete detailed assessments, reports and statements for commissioners and organisational use.
* To work independently and also as part of a team.
* To work within the organisation policies and procedures at all times, especially with regards to Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities.
* The work will involve regular contact with children and young people who may be in a distressed state, potentially relating experiences of abuse. Regular supervision and peer-support will be available and all Fortalice staff are expected to fully participate in this and take shared responsibility for personal development and learning.
* Observe and maintain health and safety procedures and practises within the organisation.
* Ensure facilities and services meet the needs of all individuals to work within the equality and diversity agenda.
* Assist with the development of volunteers into the routine tasks required within the projects and the support of service users.
* Attend and participate in meetings as required (internal or external)
* Undertake training as necessary in relation to this post and be committed to your own personal development as identified through the appraisal system

**Operational Conditions:**

* A sound understanding of health and safety requirements when providing services for children and young people.
* An ability to work well in a busy environment.
* The work is occasionally stressful, involving contact with children and young people who may be in a distressed state or relating experiences of abuse.
* Evidence of the ability to work as a team member and within a line management structure, understanding the importance of seeking guidance and support when required.
* Ability to work flexibly within the remit of the post including some evenings as required.
* Some work in the community will be part of the role - the ability to drive and access to a vehicle with business insurance is essential.