

Job title: Women's Support Worker – Advocacy
35 hrs per week. £27,588 p.a.

JOB PROFILE

East Ayrshire Women's Aid is a registered charity which exists to provide information, support and refuge for women, children and young people who experience domestic abuse. Our vision is of a society in which women, children and young people are full and equal participants and live free of the threat of domestic abuse and other forms of violence and oppression.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job purpose:

- To provide high quality immediate and medium-term support to women experiencing domestic abuse who are the highest risk of harm.
- To work effectively within a multi-agency framework of local partnership responses to domestic abuse.
- May also occasionally be required to provide women's support in other settings to meet the need for services, provide cover for absent colleagues, or otherwise.
- Contribute as a team member to meeting the aims and objectives of East Ayrshire Women's Aid.

Reporting to: Team Leader

Key activities:

- Identify and assess the risks and needs of women experiencing domestic abuse, supporting those at the highest risk of harm and/or with complex needs through individual safety planning and personal support.
- Work within multi-agency frameworks (particularly MARAC) to improve the safety and wellbeing of women accessing the service and their children (if any).
- Provide advocacy, emotional and practical support and information to women accessing the service including in relation to civil and criminal justice, housing, health and finance.
- Provide person-centred support which seeks to empower women; to assist them in recognising the features and dynamics of domestic abuse in their situation and to help them regain control of their lives.
- Manage an appointment system and caseload ensuring that each woman receives an appropriate service individual to her needs.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to ensure the needs of women are met. Advocate for women and support women to attend appointments and meetings.

- Actively encourage women's involvement in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the services they receive in line with East Ayrshire Women's Aid policies and procedures.
- Participate in the provision of the out-of hours service to our refuges.
- Actively support the team leader and manager in delivering high quality services which comply with appropriate legislation, regulation, policies and procedures and national service standards.
- Take personal responsibility for continuing professional development and achieving the standards of professional conduct required by the SSSC, professional organisations, our funders and EAWA policies and procedures.
- Positively promote a feminist analysis of domestic abuse and apply this understanding to practice.
- Maintain accurate, confidential and up to date database and paper records and case files in accordance with regulatory requirements and East Ayrshire Women's Aid policies and procedures. Produce reports as requested by the Management Team, and other agencies on an as needed basis, maintaining confidentiality in relation to service users, staff and projects.
- Represent the organisation on forums and work on organisational subgroups.
- Perform other duties as reasonably directed.

Special requirements

On-call, occasional evening and weekend working.

East Ayrshire Women's Aid is committed to providing a high standard of service to its users and other stakeholders. The post holder will share a commitment to achieving the aims and objectives of East Ayrshire Women's Aid.

East Ayrshire Women's Aid strives to be an equal opportunities employer

Note: this job profile is intended as an outline of the responsibilities and qualities required for the post, and does not form part of terms and conditions of employment

This post is open to women only (Equality Act 2010 Work Occupational Requirement Exception, Schedule 9 Paragraph 1). East Ayrshire Women's Aid welcomes applications from women from all sections of the community.

Person Specification: Women's Support Worker (Office Based)

Qualifications, training & relevant experience	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
SSSC recognised qualification to enable registration as a worker in a Housing Support Service	✓	
Professional Development Award in Domestic Abuse Advocacy		✓
At least 2 years' experience working in an environment requiring similar knowledge and skills.	✓	
Experience of participating in MARAC processes		✓
Competencies	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Good understanding of domestic abuse and the effects of abuse on women and their children.	✓	
Commitment to a gendered analysis of violence against women and girls.	✓	
Good understanding of child protection and adult support and protection procedures.	✓	
Knowledge and experience of the rights and options available to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.	✓	
Understanding of trauma informed approaches to support.		✓
Able to work with women in a way which promotes safety and empowerment.	✓	
Ability to support women with varying and complex needs.	✓	
Ability to manage a caseload and keep appropriate records and documentation	✓	
Good verbal and written communication skills.	✓	
Good organisational and IT skills including using a database.	✓	
Personal Qualities	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Committed, effective, cooperative.	✓	
Non-judgemental, reflective, compassionate and empathetic.	✓	
Acts with integrity and respect when working with individuals and agencies.	✓	
Able to form effective working relationships with service users and colleagues	✓	
Optimistic about the possibility of personal growth and change.	✓	
Drive and determination to provide the best possible services for women, children and young people.	✓	
Commitment to the values of East Ayrshire Women's Aid	✓	
Ability to work flexibly as part of a team.	✓	
Special Requirements	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Commitment to equalities and anti-discriminatory practice.	✓	
Able to participate in delivery of a 24 hour on-call service to our refuges.	✓	
Membership of PVG Scheme	✓	
Full driving licence and access to own transport (with business insurance) or otherwise able to travel throughout East Ayrshire.	✓	