



The Step Up To Social Work programme offers rewarding careers in child and family social work for talented graduates

Graduates and career changers to child and family social work will be given hands-on training to become the next generation of social workers. This is part of the UK Government's Plan which is focussed on protecting, supporting, and creating jobs across the country. There is a commitment to making social work a career that more people can aspire to, and to make it a career that talented people with a sense of purpose can achieve.

The Kent and Medway Regional Partnership is opening the recruitment round for 20 aspiring social workers to join the 14-month Step Up to Social Work programme to start in January 2022. This intensive, full-time programme is for those without a degree in social work and who want to become a social worker. Students can expect to learn through a combination of academic study and real social work experience in a Local Authority. On completion, the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work will enable graduates to register and practice as a social worker, making a difference by nurturing relationships with families during difficult times and by protecting children.

This will be the third cohort of Step Up students supported by the Kent And Medway Regional partnership, with all those previously enrolled having qualified as Social Workers via the Step-Up programme. Step Up is backed by £25million from the Government to fund 700 places across the Country, with students receiving a bursary of £19,833 over the duration of the programme to support them whilst in training.

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said:

"This year has demonstrated more than ever the crucial role that social workers play in supporting the most vulnerable children and families in society. Therefore, we are continuing to focus on recruiting, developing and retaining the best. Training schemes like Step Up are open to recent graduates as well as those who left education some time ago, and they are helping to develop a new generation of talented social work professionals who make such a difference. Initiatives such as Step Up also demonstrate our dedication to creating jobs and opportunities across the country as part of the government's Plan for Jobs, as well as doing our utmost to protect those whose industries are facing pressure."

Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, said:

"I have been impressed each year with the quality of the hundreds of graduates who qualify as social workers through the Step-Up programme and encouraged to see them start out on a long-term career in social work. Our profession is highly challenging, but highly rewarding, and Step Up is developing a highly skilled workforce ready to make a genuine positive impact on people's lives."

Kent and Medway are looking for strong graduates who have experience of working with vulnerable children, young people, families, or adults and who can demonstrate their maturity and emotional



resilience. In particular, the programme this year continues to encourage more applications from male and BAME candidates, as we aspire to make the programme, and the profile of social work practitioners, more diverse and representative of the families and communities being supported.

The Step-Up programme runs every two years. Applications will open from 15 February to 7 April 2021, followed by regional assessment centres for candidates successful at the initial application stage. Students can expect to start the programme in January 2022, completing their training in March 2023.

For a chance to be part of the next #StepUpToSocialWork programme, click the link below, applications open from 15th February 2021 and close on 7th April 2021.

It's never too late to switch to social work and make a huge difference for children and families.

Step Up GOV.UK page link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/step-up-to-social-work-information-for-applicants>