

Working with Children and Young People

There is a wide range of jobs working with children and young people. The diagram below gives examples of just some of these. It shows roles in learning and teaching environments and those offering support and guidance. Some of these focus on young children and families, and others work more with older children and adults. Many jobs will encompass a range of different client groups and ages. Some require specific qualifications and training but many others are entered through a variety of routes.

Children

1. Class teacher, Inclusion/ attendance mentor, Teacher in other settings, Learning support worker, home school link worker, classroom assistant, educational psychologist, safeguarding manager, sports coach, dyslexia assessor, educational mental health practitioner

2. Pre-School manager, Families activities worker, Education welfare, Adventure playground worker, Family court advisor, Early year's practitioner, Early intervention support worker, Children's nurse, Play worker, Family support worker, Family therapist, Clinical/ child psychologist

Learning & Teaching

3. Secondary teacher, Learning support, Behaviour manager, Disability advisor, Pastoral manager, Inclusion mentor, Community arts worker, Learning support college, Cover supervisor, FE/ adult lecturer, Museum director, University lecturer, Child protection officer, Exams officer, Private tutor, Prison tutor, Support outreach worker, Learning support university

Support & Guidance

4. Substance misuse officer, Connexions adviser, Youth offending team, Drugs worker, Community worker, Sports leader, Parenting advisor, youth worker, Probation officer, Safeguarding manager, Housing advice, Hostel worker, Careers adviser, Young carers keyworker, Counsellor, Advice & Guidance worker, Outdoor activities worker

Young People/ Adults

Note: In the above table there are links in the careers options between the points as follows: point 1 is Children with Learning & Teaching, point 2 is Children with Support & Guidance, point 3 is Learning & Teaching with Young People/ Adults, point 4 is Support & Guidance with Young People/ Adults. For more information about any of these job roles see www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles

Where the jobs are

Education and educational support roles are found within schools, colleges, universities and some private providers such as Babcock.

Parenting and Family Support providers deliver parenting support, targeted family support and support to those young people who are most at risk of leaving education and becoming unemployed. This support will be complemented by other prevention and early help services including schools and the voluntary and community sector. The model of delivery will vary from area to area.

Other roles with children and young people can be found within youth justice, youth work, health services, mentoring, support and safeguarding in schools, housing groups, charities and voluntary organisations.

Examples of some of the types of organisations offering job opportunities are listed below.

Schools and Academies	Mentoring and learning support roles, family support.
Charities and voluntary organisations	For example, Barnados, Action for Children, Springfield Mind, YSS, YMCA, and Cranstoun. Roles include family support, young carers, domestic violence, and mental health.
Local Authorities	Statutory children's and social services are delivered by Local Authorities. Children's centres, sports partnerships, youth services, family information, and outreach support may also be delivered through bodies such as Worcestershire Children First.
Health Services	Services such as such as Clinical psychology, psychological wellbeing practitioner, and educational mental health practitioner, are offered through the NHS via Mental Health services such as Worcestershire and Herefordshire Healthy Minds
National Offenders Management Service	Youth Offending teams, often multi-disciplinary, drawing from police, probation and youth work.
Housing groups	For example, Sanctuary Group and Platform Housing offer roles to support young people and vulnerable adults.
Contracted Services	Other organisations, such as Core Assets can offer a range of contracted services, such as fostering, home education, family support
Cafcass and the court system	Social workers and Intermediaries for Justice represent the needs of children and help them to communicate effectively

Qualifications and Attributes

Many of the roles mentioned in this leaflet requires a specific degree, post graduate qualification, or substantial further training or experience. Jobs with children involve a high level of responsibility so experience working with children is vital. If you already have a relevant degree or experience you may be able to enter certain roles directly. If you do not you may need to build up your experience through part time or summer work, or through volunteering.

In addition to the skills required to be an excellent practitioner, graduates must also develop a strong set of attributes to thrive in the sector. They may need to be prepared to work across a wide range of client groups, and within different teams. For example, graduates with early years' experience may also be working with teenagers at times, or social workers may be working in teams alongside occupational therapists and youth workers. Positivity and resilience are important qualities in any sector, but particularly when dealing with challenging clients and wider organisational change.

Skills, Attributes and Values

Flexible and Adaptable	Communication	Positivity and Enthusiasm
Non judgemental and respect for diversity	Capacity to think on your feet and stay calm in stressful situations	Leadership
Resilience	Professional	Creative Solutions
Continuous Professional Development	Willingness to work with all age groups and families	Willingness to work in different locations

Further information

Job Profiles and General Careers information

- www.prospects.ac.uk Search for 'Job profiles' under 'Jobs and work experience'
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/> Search 'Job profiles'

Job vacancies

- www.wmjobs.co.uk for jobs in the West Midlands.
- www.cypnow.co.uk/ for children and youth jobs nationally
- www.charityjob.co.uk/ for charity and third sector roles nationally
- www.jobsgopublic.com for local authority and some third sector jobs nationally
- www.jobs.nhs.uk for vacancies within the NHS nationally

Local organisations

- www.actionforchildren.org.uk
- www.barnardos.org.uk/
- www.cranstoun.org/
- www.onside-advocacy.org.uk/
- www.platformhq.com/
- <https://springfieldmind.org.uk/>
- www.vestia.org.uk/
- www.wmrsasc.org.uk/
- www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sunshine
- <http://www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk/>

Other Careers & Employability leaflets

- Careers for Early Years Graduates
- Working with People
- Alternatives to Teaching
- Routes into Teaching
- Getting into Social Work
- Careers in CAMHS & Health & Social Care
- Careers in Counselling & Psychological Therapies

If you would like to book a careers appointment to discuss your options, please visit: <https://worcester.targetconnect.net>

myCareer

Date updated: 24/06/2021 (Information correct at time of going to print)