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**Family Support Worker**

**Prisoner Family Services**

**HMP Chelmsford**

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidence **A message from our CEO, Allan Myatt**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Family Support Worker in our Prisoner Family Services based at HMP Chelmsford Service.

Over the last four years, the strategic plans we set in 2019 successfully guided us through a particularly challenging period around the world. Within this time, we have strengthened our infrastructure, said goodbye to some services and welcomed and substantially grown others. We have adopted a new brand identity, giving us a much fresher and more optimistic outlook. We have also invested in our most important asset, our staff, and begun to apply our values across every area of our work. In short, we are now a safer, healthier, and more resilient organisation which has enabled more children, young people, and families to feel safer, healthier, and more resilient too.

In June last year, we began the process of looking forward to set out a plan for the next three years. We looked at what had been working well and what more needs to be done to improve our quality and reach within the East of England. The enclosed strategic plan for 2022 – 25 is now well underway and we see the recruitment of this post as critical in helping us achieve our objectives.

I wish you the best of luck with your application.

Best regards,

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Allan Myatt

**Who Are Ormiston Families?**

Ormiston Families is one of the leading charities working with children, young people and families in the East of England. We take early and preventative action to support families to be safe, healthy and resilient. All our services help people to build stronger networks, learn from experience and feel in control of their own wellbeing. We can only achieve this with the people who choose to work for us.

**About Our Prisoner Family Support Services**

Research undertaken by MoJ found 38% of prisoners reported that support from their families would help prevent them from reoffending. MoJ (2014) Supportive relationships with family members and significant others give meaning and all-important motivation to other strands of rehabilitation and resettlement activity. Family work should always be seen and referred to alongside education and employment as rehabilitation activities and to be considered the third leg of the stool that brings stability and structure to prisoners’ lives, particularly when they leave prison. Farmer (2017).

Lord Farmer (2017) concludes in his review; Good family & significant other relationships should be seen as the ‘golden thread’ and are indispensable for delivering the Government's far-reaching plans across all the areas outlined in their white paper on Prison Safety and Reform, published in November 2016 if prisons are truly to be places of reform. We cannot ignore the reality that a supportive relationship with at least one person is indispensable to a prisoner’s ability to get through their sentence well and achieve rehabilitation. It is not only family members who can provide these and, wherever family relationships are mentioned, it should be assumed that other significant and supportive relationships are also inferred.

The work we undertake within the Prison Family Services at Ormiston Families is underpinned by Lord Farmer (2017) and his recommendations. We have entwined the ‘golden thread’ refered to into our underpinning values and work ethic working with all those impacted by familial imprisonment. Working closely with the Prisons Ormiston Families staff ensure we promote and advocate on behalf of the families and the prisoners giving them a voice to help support, maintain and build healthy, safe and resilent family and significant other relationships whilst serving their sentence.

**About Our HMP Chelmsford Service**

The Ormiston Families team is based at HMP Chelmsford. We assist with the effective and efficient running of the Visitors Hall and Centre providing support, information and a personal welcome for visitors to help them access the services available to them.

**About the role of Family Support Worker**

HMP Chelmsford part of the main HMP Estate offers a varied and exciting opportunity to work in a busy yet rewarding environment where no two days are the same. You will be required to obtain and retain enhanced security vetting for this role.

The Ormiston Families team based at HMP Chelmsford provide a personal welcome for first-time and returning visitors to help them access the services available to them.

We are seeking Family Support Workers to join the team in providing effective and efficient running of the Visitor Centre, Tea Bar, Play Area in the Prison Visits Hall, assist on Family Days to ensure prisoners and their families have a valuable visiting experience, improving the quality of visits for children and families helping to maintain positive, healthy and resilent family relationships.

**About you**

Ideally you will have experience of dealing with people in a customer service-based role and be able to demonstrate excellent communication and problem-solving skills sometimes under challenging circumstances whilst embracing a a non-judgemental and empathetic work ethic

The work pattern is as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday 11:15am – 4:30pm (5.25 hours per weekday shift)

plus

Saturday and Sunday one weekend (based on a 4 week rota) – 11:30am – 4.15pm (4.75 hours per shift)

plus

One Sunday (4.75 hours per shift)

Although a degree of flexibility will be required at times to meet operational demand.

**Safer Recruitment**

**Application Process / Post Requirement**

You must demonstrate that you meet the competencies; experience, knowledge, skills, and qualifications, that are required for this role (see Job Description below).

You must complete and submit an online application form (via the ‘Work with Us’ section of our website) detailing in the personal statement section, how you meet the criteria.

**Rights to Work in the UK** (RTW) (in person or remote)

The Recruiting Manager will need to see the original documents providing proof of your right to work in the UK.

* UK Passport / Full UK Birth Certificate / Drivers Licence / Utilities Bill   
  (proof of address)
* EUSS Permanent Status or Pre-Status Share Code
* Current EU/EAA/Swiss Citizen Passport
* EU/EAA/Swiss Citizen Visa
* Home Office Certificate
* If the interview is held in person, we will verify hard copy documents which you will need to bring with you to the interview.
* If the interview is held remotely, you will need to email copies of your RTW documents to the Recruiting Manager before the interview. At the remote interview [Teams, Skype, Zoom] you will need to have the original hard copy documents available so the relevant checks can be undertaken.

**Safeguarding and DBS Requirements for Your Role**

Ormiston Families is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. DBS checks or police vetting will be required for relevant posts.

**Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks:**

* As this position meets the definition of regulated activity under the Protection of Freedom Act 2012, appointments to this post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check with barred list check.
* Employment can commence once the check has been satisfactorily completed.
* If you have a conviction on your DBS check, an assessment of the relevance and impact of the conviction in relation to the post will be done to determine if the job offer can be confirmed.
* It is a serious criminal offence to knowingly apply for posts when you have been barred from working with children/young people and/or vulnerable adults.
* Additional questions for roles working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults to be explored at interview.
* As this post involves working either with children and young people or vulnerable adults Warner or Safer Care motivational type questions may be asked during the interview process.
* These questions are asked to establish your suitability to work with vulnerable groups by understanding your attitude, behaviour, and responses to situations.
* The questions will relate to your inspiration for working with vulnerable groups, your ability to build relationships and your resilience when working with such groups and may also explore your attitude to the use of authority.
* If you feel you would find these questions about yourself difficult to respond to then you may wish to reflect upon your suitability for the post.

**Disclosure**

* Ormiston Families encourages all candidates called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process.
  + This information can be sent under separate, confidential cover to the Human Resources Team [**hr@ormistonfamilies.org.uk**](mailto:hr@ormistonfamilies.org.uk)
  + Ormiston Families guarantees that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
* Unless the nature of the position allows Ormiston Families to ask questions about your entire criminal record only questions about "unspent" convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 will be asked.
* Ormiston Families will ensure that every subject of a DBS Disclosure is aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.
* Ormiston Families undertakes to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
* Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with Ormiston Families. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences.

**Qualification**

* The Recruiting Manager will need to see the original copies of your qualification either in person or via video conference.
* If the interview is held in person, we will verify hard copy documents which you will need to bring with you to the interview.
* If the interview is held via video conference, you will need to email copies of your qualification to the Recruiting Manager before the interview. At the interview, you will need to have the original hard copy documents available so the relevant checks can be undertaken.
* If short-listed and you are required to hold a particular qualification for a post it is your responsibility to provide the relevant certification, to prove you are suitably qualified.
* Failure to produce documentary evidence of qualifications or undertake required courses/training may result in the termination of your employment.
* If a post requires you to take training or additional qualifications then, by accepting this post, you are agreeing to do the training or take the qualifications.

**References**

* If appointed, we will ask you for referee details which cover your past 3 years of employment, one of which must be your current/most recent employer.

**Health Check**

* If appointed and to ensure the post does not have a detrimental effect on your health or your health on your work, you will have to complete a health enquiry form, and may be required to have a medical via Occupational Health.
* This is to confirm that you are able to satisfactorily carry out the post without any impact on your health (taking account of any reasonable adjustments required).
* It will be separated from your application form and will not be seen by anyone involved in recruitment to this job.

**GDPR / Data Protection:**

* Ormiston Families is required by law to comply with the UK GDPR / Data Protection Act 2018.
* Employees have an important role to play in ensuring that personal information is processed lawfully and fairly.
* Personal information is information relating to a living individual who can be identified.
* It is each individual employee’s responsibility to handle all personal information properly no matter how it is collected, recorded and used, whether on paper, in a computer, or on other material.
* Personal information must not be disclosed to others unless authorised to do so.
* All personal /sensitive information will be sent to you via Egress encryption service or password protected.

**Equal Opportunities:**

* Ormiston Families is an equal opportunities employer.
* We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.
* We ask you to complete a monitoring form to help us monitor the diversity of applicants. It will be separated from your application form and will not be seen by anyone involved in recruitment to this job.
* The gender identity, disability, marital status, ethnic origin, age, pregnancy status, religion or belief, or sexual orientation of an applicant or employee does not affect the employment opportunities made available, except as permitted by legislation.
* In addition, applicants declaring a disability who meet the minimum (essential) criteria for a vacancy will be invited for interview.
* Ormiston Families seeks to ensure that all employees are selected, trained, and promoted on the basis of ability, the requirements of the post and other similar and objective criteria.

**Any queries, please email:** [**alison.herron@ormistonfamilies.org.uk**](mailto:alison.herron@ormistonfamilies.org.uk)

**Ormiston Families reserves the right to close the vacancy early if we have received sufficient applications ahead of the closing date.**

**Information about working   
for Ormiston Families**

**Job Title: Family Support Worker**

**Duration**

The post advertised is a permanent, part-time position.

**Hours of Work and Working Arrangements:**

* The work pattern is as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday 11:15am – 4:30pm (5.25 hours per weekday shift)

plus

Saturday and Sunday one weekend (based on a 4 week rota) – 11:30am – 4.15pm (4.75 hours per shift)

plus

One Sunday (4.75 hours per shift)

Although a degree of flexibility will be required at times to meet operational demand.

* The normal working week is 35 hours, Monday to Friday and covers 52 weeks per year.

**Location:**

* Your base will be the Visitors’ Centre at HMP Chelmsford.

**Salary:**

* The salary for the post will be based off an hourly rate of £12 per hour (Real Living Wage).
* The full-time equivalent is £21,840, based on 35 hours per week.
* Salary is paid in 12 equal instalments on the 25th of each month directly into your bank account and covers work carried out in the calendar month.

**Probationary Period:**

* The post is subject to a probationary period of 6 months during which your progress will be monitored in accordance with agreed objectives.

**Travelling Requirements for Your Role**

* Ormiston Families positively encourages the use of technology to communicate and engage but in this role you may need to travel.
* You must either hold a full and current driving licence and have access to personal transport or meet the mobility requirements of the role through other reasonable and suitable means.
* Any mileage undertaken on behalf of Ormiston Families will be paid in accordance with our Expenses Policy and within Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs guidelines.
* If you require a reasonable adjustment due to a disability to meet the travel requirements of this role, please speak with the contact detailed below.
* If you use your own vehicle for the purposes of work, you must ensure that your insurance policy covers you for this purpose.



**Job Description**

**Job Title: Family Support Worker**

**Service: Prisoner Family Services**

**Location: HMP Chelmsford**

**Job Purpose**

To assist with the effective and efficient running of the Visitors Hall and Centre at HMP Chelmsford to ensure prisoners and their families have a valuable visiting experience, improving the quality of visits for children and families and helping to maintain family relationships.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

* To obtain prison keys to open and close the Visitors Centre.
* To follow all rules and procedures in the prison and keep up to date with any changes.
* To monitor and maintain the Visitors Centre Reception and book in visitors for all visits to prisoners.
* To maintain the day to day running of the Visitors Centre.
* To provide support and information to the children and families of prisoners as appropriate and signpost to other agencies where needed.
* To support the Team Leader with activities for group and/or individual work, in order to achieve identified outcomes for prisoners’ children and families when visiting the prison. This may include one to one work with prisoners, inductions, parenting courses, story book dads’ and children and family days.
* To maintain the Visitor Centre’s inside and outside play areas, including setting up and tidying away.
* To assist in the provision of refreshments for visitors, where required.
* To run play services inside the prison visits hall and organise and maintain toys and activity packs for children in the prison visit halls.
* Where appropriate to lead, undertake and/or oversee assessments of need, identifying and agreeing outcomes for individual prisoners and their children and families.
* To ensure all financial procedures and policies are fully met.
* To keep records and ensure the maintenance of accurate recording systems related to Service/Project activities and / or service users, via our monitoring and evaluation policy.
* To be a fully participating member of the team and to play a lead role in the delivery of the service plan in pre agreed areas of work.
* To work within Ormiston’s mission and values and all Ormiston policies and procedures including Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Participation, Quality and Health and Safety. Comply with relevant external standards and Quality Marks.
* Any other responsibilities that arise, commensurate with the position, as instructed by the Team Leader or Cluster Manager.
* To assist with the effective and efficient running of any other Visitors Centre within the Prisoners’ Family Support Services contract.
* To visit other services within the region as and when required.
* To attend meetings and training when required.

**Other requirements**

* It will be a requirement of this post to obtain and maintain the relevant prison clearance and comply with the Prison’s Policies and Procedures regarding vetting.
* Where required as part of your role to obtain and maintain relevant key talk training.

**Generic Duties**

* To undertake any other reasonable duty, which is appropriate to the grade when requested by senior staff.
* To be familiar with and comply with all Ormiston Families policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines.
* To demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the charity’s values.
* You may be required to conduct other tasks based on the business needs.

**Personal Specification**

**Qualifications**

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| --- | --- |
| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
|  | NVQ level 2 in a related subject or equivalent or relevant professional experience of working in a prison environment |

**Experience**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Experience of dealing with people in a face-to-face customer service-based role. | Experience of working with children in a play setting. |
| Experience of dealing with people over the telephone in a customer service-based role. | Experience of serving food and drink and cash handling (including use of a till). |

**Abilities and Knowledge**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to communicate effectively to a range of people. | Knowledge of other appropriate and relevant service provisions in the area. |
| Good report writing skills. | Knowledge and skills of partnership working. |
| Excellent attention to detail for recording process, events and systems. |  |
| Good understanding of Safeguarding. |  |
| Basic knowledge of health and safety to include carrying out risk assessments. |  |
| Diplomatic and able to deal with issues sensitively and with discretion. |  |
| Strong understanding of confidentiality and data protection. |  |
| Good listening skills. |  |
| Competent ability to use MS Excel, MS Word and Outlook. |  |
| Ability to work effectively under a certain degree of pressure. |  |
| Ability to manage own workload and work on own initiative within given guidelines and procedures. |  |
| Good understanding of equal opportunities and diversity. |  |
| A positive professional attitude with the ability to motivate others. |  |

**Professional and Personal Development**

* All staff must ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities by attending mandatory training and our induction programme.
* All staff will have a formal appraisal with their manager at least every 12 months. Once performance/training objectives have been set, the staff member’s progress will be reviewed on a regular basis so that new objectives can be agreed and set, in order to maintain progress in the service delivery.
* All staff will be expected to take responsibility for their own professional development and will be supported to achieve development opportunities as appropriate.

**Health and Safety**

* All staff have a responsibility to maintain the health and safety of self and others within the performance of duties in accordance with health and safety policies, and to undertake specific health and safety responsibilities as directed. All staff have a responsibility to adhere to the risk management policies & procedures.
* All staff are required to contribute to the control of risk, and must report immediately any incident, accident or near miss involving service users, carers, staff, contractors or members of the public.

**Confidentiality and Information Governance**

* All staff may gain or have access to confidential information about the assessment and/or treatment of service users, information affecting the public, private or work related staff information, or charity matters. A breach of confidentiality will have occurred where any such information has been divulged, passed (deliberately or accidentally) or overheard by any unauthorised person or person(s). Breaches of confidentiality can result in disciplinary action, which may involve dismissal.
* All staff must maintain a high standard of quality in corporate and clinical record keeping, ensuring information is always recorded accurately, appropriately and kept up to date. Staff must only access information, whether paper, electronic or in other media which is authorised to them as part of their duties.
* All staff must ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.

**Safeguarding: Adults and Children** (Section 11 of the Children Act 2004)

* Every member of staff has a responsibility to be aware of and follow at all times, the relevant national and local policy in relation to safeguarding children and safeguarding adults.
* Safeguarding and DBS requirements for your role:
* Ormiston Families is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. DBS checks or police vetting will be required for relevant posts.

**Senior Managers**

* Under Section 11 of the Children Act senior managers have responsibility for ensuring that service developments take into account the promotion of welfare and is informed by the views of children and families; providing training on safeguarding for all staff; recruiting safely; ensuring there is effective inter-agency working and information sharing.



**Freedom of Information (FOI)**

* All members of staff must be aware of their responsibilities under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. The Act gives individuals or organisations the right to request information held by the charity. Staff must manage information they hold in such a way that meets the requirements of the Act. All requests for disclosures under the Act must be passed to the Privacy Officer.

**Data Quality**

* The Charity recognises the role of reliable information in the delivery & development of its services and in assuring robust clinical and corporate governance. Data quality is central to this and the availability of complete, comprehensive, accurate and timely data is an essential component in the provision of high-quality mental health services. It is therefore the responsibility of all staff to ensure that where appropriate, information is recorded, at all times, in line with the charity’s policy and procedures for data quality.
* This job description seeks to provide an outline of the duties and responsibilities of the post. It is not a definitive document and does not form part of the main statement of terms and conditions. The job description will be reviewed as part of the annual appraisal process and will be used as the basis for setting objectives.

**Benefits & Recognition**

**All benefits are discretionary, and Ormiston Families reserves the right to change or amend benefits at any given time.**

**Cycle to Work**

* Cycle to Work allows you to order a new bike, equipment or both up to the value of £1,000 which you can pay back through your salary to make tax savings.

**Annual Leave Entitlement:**

* The basic annual leave entitlement is 27 days plus additional leave for employees who have completed 1 year’s service up to a maximum of 30 days.
* Part-time employees receive a pro-rata allowance according to the number of hours they work per week.
* Ability to buy and sell up to 5 days’ annual leave within any leave year. (All leave must be taken within the year it is purchased including any agreed leave brought forward from the previous year.)

**Group Life Assurance:**

* Ormiston Families provides a death in service benefit, up to the age of 70, that includes and covers permanent, fixed-term and as & when contracted employees.

**Occupational Sick Pay Scheme:**

* Ormiston Families operates an occupational sick pay scheme in addition to statutory sick pay.

**Pension:**

* Ormiston Families provides a Group Personal Pension Scheme with up to 9% of gross salary employer contribution for any employee where they match the level of contribution.

**Sponsorship:**

* Ormiston Families provides the opportunity to apply for sponsorship to employees who have completed their probationary period and been in post for at least 12 months to undertake nationally accredited or chartered certification awarded by professional associations.

**Employee Assistance Programme:**

* Ormiston Families provides a comprehensive employee assistance programme which offers free and confidential access to telephone and face to face counselling (up to 6 sessions), financial and legal advice and assistance in finding information about a wide range of subjects from childcare to moving to a new house.

**The Hive:**

* The Hive is a savings platform which can be accessed by employees to make everyday purchases at reduced costs. Employees can save money by purchasing reloadable cards, obtain cashback through online purchases, and make savings in some stores.

**The Wellbeing Centre:**

* We have trained Mental Health First Aiders who form our Wellbeing Team, promoting mental and physical health. Ormiston Families has also signed the pledge to support our employees going through the menopause in the workplace.

**A group of people shaking hands

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**We build supportive partnerships, communities and networks**