

# Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker

## Peterborough Youth Services

The Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker reports to the Clinical Supervisor.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The provincial Youth Outreach Worker Program supports at-risk and high-risk youth and their families to better navigate and connect with services and pro-social opportunities in their communities to improve youth outcomes. Enhanced Youth Outreach Workers work as a part of the Youth Outreach Worker team to expand the continuum of services of the Program by providing intensive one-on-one support to high-risk youth ages 12 to 21 and their families to prevent youth from further risk / violence. High-risk youth are youth who may be experiencing challenges related to mental health, addictions, trauma, relationship violence, human / sex trafficking and / or may be involved in criminal activities; and who have been involved in specific incidents or conflicts (fight at school, interaction with the police, sibling in conflict with the law) that increase their risks. This position complements the community outreach, prevention and intervention work undertaken by Youth Outreach Workers to build neighbourhood and community capacity to engage and serve youth better.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor of Social Work and relevant experience, or Masters of Social Work, Counselling Psychology or equivalent and eligible for certification / membership in a registered professional association for practitioners in clinical therapy;

Familiarity with the specialized needs of youth who may be experiencing challenges related to mental health, addictions, trauma, relationship violence, human / sex trafficking and / or may be involved in criminal activities;

Demonstrated ability delivering intensive, short-term counselling and support services to youth in crisis, helping them to address their specific challenges, and referring and supporting them to access required services;

Demonstrated ability to support family members of high-risk youth, and refer them to required services;

Skill in managing the case plans of multiple, high-risk youth clients and their families;

Knowledge of and sensitivity to the life experiences and diverse needs, identities and cultural backgrounds of at-risk and high-risk youth in underserved communities;

Knowledge of the community including knowledge of local programs and services to refer high-risk youth, such as mental health and counselling supports;

Skill in establishing trusting relationships with youth;

Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team;

Demonstrated ability to work co-operatively and negotiate effectively with a range of community groups and service providers across sectors;

Second language an asset; and

Ability to work flexible hours including one evening a week.

#### MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Working as a part of the Youth Outreach Worker team, the Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker will:

Provide short-term, counselling and support services to high-risk youth in accordance with the Stages of Change intervention model adapted for the Youth Outreach Worker Program.

Collaborate with the Youth Outreach Worker to identify youth who may require additional, more intensive services, and work with the Youth Outreach Worker to align support services for individual youth.

Develop and oversee a short-term case management plan for high-risk youth clients, in partnership with the Youth Outreach Worker, and support youth by:

1. Helping youth to identify their needs, goals, aspirations, skills and abilities as well as barriers to accessing services;
2. Helping youth to build resiliency, pro-social skills and other protective factors to address their various risk factors;
3. Helping youth to address the specific incidents / risk factors that may bring them into conflict with peers, family, and / or the law;
4. Providing youth with general information, contacts, referrals and support as needed to build assets and address needs (e.g., housing, employment, education, health care and recreation; social and emotional issues); and
5. Referring youth to appropriate services in the community, and supporting them to access these services.

Support parents and family members to help youth address their needs by providing short-term counselling, if needed, and referring parents and family members to other supports and services available in the community.

Maintain collaborative working relationships with other professionals within and outside of the organization.

In collaboration with Youth Outreach Worker Supervisor and team:

1. Promote community awareness of the Youth Outreach Worker Program and maintain a recognizable community presence;
2. Identify emerging issues, service gaps and opportunities for action to build community capacity; and
3. Identify staff development / training needs and participate in staff development / training programs, as required.

Enter and maintain accurate and complete service data in the Outreach Record in a timely manner.

Maintain professional and evidence-based standards of practice in accordance with the Stages of Change intervention model, a positive youth development framework and relevant legislation (e.g. Child and Family Services Act, Youth Criminal Justice Act).

Carry out other duties as assigned as part of the provincial Youth Outreach Worker Program.