

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist/Neuropsychology

Department: Stroke Service Epsom

Reports To : General Manager Specialty Medicine

Accountable To : Trust Clinical Neuropsychology lead

Responsible For: Clinical Psychology Service for Stroke Service

Grade : 8a

Work pattern: part time 22.5hrs/week

Applications are invited for a HCPC registered Clinical Psychologist for this post in the Clinical Neuropsychology Service within the Epsom and St Helier Stroke service. The post will be based in the inpatient Stroke Unit at Epsom General Hospital and the post holder will provide and develop a high quality specialist Clinical Neuropsychology service to the Stroke Unit working with the friendly Multi-Disciplinary Team. There may be the opportunity for additional work in the community.

The Clinical Neuropsychology team is small and dynamic. The successful candidate will receive supervision from an experienced Clinical Neuropsychologist. There will also be ample opportunities to develop skills such as supervision, consultation, audit and training as well as to contribute to the development and evaluation of the service.

Job Summary

To be responsible for the provision of a high quality Clinical Neuropsychology Service to the inpatient Stroke Service, Epsom General Hospital. This will include providing highly specialist neuropsychological assessment and therapy, offering advice and consultation on psychological aspects of stroke to other health professionals and supporting clinical team members who provide psychosocial care. The postholder will be responsible for the delivery, management and development of the Specialist Clinical Neuropsychology Service at the Stroke Unit and as such work autonomously, within recognised professional guidelines. The post holder will be expected to utilise their knowledge of evidence based psychological interventions and research skills to implement audit, research and service development projects. The postholder will also be involved in the training

and continuing professional development of clinical psychologists and other health professionals.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Other members of the stroke team, other healthcare professionals, GPs, Mental Health Services, voluntary sector services and other disciplines and agencies as required.

CLINICAL DUTIES

- To be responsible for providing a comprehensive specialist neuropsychological and psychological assessment service for stroke patients, based upon the appropriate use, interpretation and integration of complex data from a variety of sources including psychological and neuropsychological tests, self-report measures, rating scales, direct and indirect structured observations and semi-structured interviews with patients, members of the multi-disciplinary team, family members and others involved in the client's care.
- To formulate plans for the formal neuropsychological rehabilitation of a patient's cognitive and/or emotional problems based upon an appropriate conceptual framework of the client's problems including a highly specialized understanding of the impact of damage to areas of the brain and the specific impact of this on brain functioning, and employing methods based upon evidence of efficacy.
- To be responsible for implementing a range of highly specialized neuropsychological interventions for patients, adjusting and refining psychological formulations drawing upon different explanatory models and maintaining a number of provisional hypotheses.
- To make highly skilled evaluations and decisions about treatment options taking into account both theoretical and therapeutic models and highly complex factors concerning historical and developmental processes that have shaped the individual, and always evaluating these models and factors within a neuropsychological framework which includes the effect of any damage on brain functioning.
- To exercise full responsibility and autonomy for the treatment of and discharge from neuropsychological care of clients, ensuring appropriate assessment, formulation and interventions, communicating with the referral agent and all other professional groups in the rehabilitation team as appropriate including professionals outside the teams.
- To provide expertise and highly specialist neuropsychological advice, guidance and consultation to other professionals working on the Stroke

Unit, contributing directly to clients' formulation, diagnosis and treatment plan.

- To ensure that all members of the rehabilitation team have access to a neuropsychological based framework for the understanding and care of patients within the Stroke Unit, through the provision of advice and consultation and the dissemination of neuropsychological knowledge, research and theory.
- To undertake risk assessment and risk management for relevant individual patients and to provide both general and specialist advice for other professionals on psychological and neuropsychological aspects of risk assessment and management.
- To communicate in a highly skilled and sensitive manner, information which is often very complex and distressing concerning the assessment, formulation and treatment plans of patients under their care to staff from the different professions working in the Stroke Unit, patients' carers and/or families and to the patients themselves, making this information as accessible as possible even given the cognitive impact of the damage to the brain caused by the stroke, and to monitor and evaluate progress during the course of both uni- and multi-disciplinary care.
- To provide on discharge expert advice about the neuropsychological care of patients to staff and agencies outside the Directorate and Trust as necessary.

TEACHING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION

- In common with all clinical psychologists, to receive regular clinical professional supervision, in accordance with HCPC / DCP guidelines.
- To take part in regular continuing professional development as identified at annual personal development review with the Trust Clinical Neuropsychology lead and the Trust Professional Lead for Clinical Psychology.
- To contribute to the teaching and training of pre- and post- qualification clinical psychologists and other health professionals working with people with stroke.
- To provide advice, consultation and training to staff working with people with stroke across a range of agencies and settings.
- To provide professional and clinical supervision of assistant and / or trainee clinical psychologists

RESEARCH & SERVICE EVALUATION

- To utilise theory, evidence-based literature and research to support evidence based practice in direct client work and work with other team members.
- To undertake appropriate research and provide research advice to other staff undertaking research up to and including doctoral and post-doctoral level research.
- To develop and maintain effective methods of activity data collection for the Clinical Neuropsychology Service in the Stroke Service
- To be responsible for the design and implementation of audit including complex audit and service evaluation projects of the Clinical Psychology Service in the Stroke Service, in order to assess the impact and effectiveness of the service and identifying areas for service development.
- To conduct and advise on audit projects evaluating the wider service provided by the Stroke Service, for example client satisfaction surveys
- To produce annual reports on Clinical Neuropsychology Services at the Stroke Unit

MANAGEMENT, RECRUITMENT & SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

- To receive regular supervision in managing the service in an effective and efficient way.
- To be responsible for the development, evaluation and monitoring of operational policies and procedures for the Clinical Neuropsychology Service to the Stroke Unit.
- To advise both service and professional management on those aspects of the service where psychological and / or organisational matters need addressing
- To regularly liaise with the service manager in order to ensure that the service runs effectively, safely and efficiently
- Where appropriate, to manage workloads of assistant and trainee clinical psychologists.

- To contribute to the development, evaluation and monitoring of the service provided at the Stroke Unit as a whole through deployment of professional skills in research, service evaluation, audit and team organisation.
- To contribute where appropriate to the development of psychological aspects of care of people with stroke at a local, regional and national level through involvement in teaching, training and service review.

GENERAL

- To ensure the highest standards of clinical record keeping including electronic data entry and recording, report writing and the responsible exercise of professional self governance in accordance with professional codes of practice of the British Psychological Society, Stroke Unit and Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals Trust.
- To maintain up to date knowledge of developments in the speciality of stroke and neuropsychology and related areas and national and local policies related to the delivery of stroke and neuropsychology services
- To ensure the development and the maintenance of the highest professional standards of practice, through active participation in continuing professional development in consultation with the post holder's professional and service managers.
- To be responsible for the development and articulation of best practices in psychology within the service, by exercising the skills of a reflexive and reflective scientist practitioner, taking part in regular professional supervision and appraisal and maintaining an active engagement with current developments in the field of clinical psychology and related disciplines.
- To contribute to work to raise awareness of good psychological practice in the care of medical patients within the Trust and, in conjunction with the Trust professional Lead for Clinical Psychology, to advise on further service developments in line with these principles where appropriate.
- Through active participation in professional special interest groups, contribute to work to develop the profession of Clinical Psychology and its contribution to the effective care of medical patients.

Person Specification

Job title: - Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist, Band 8a

	ESSENTIAL	DESIREABLE
Education/Professional Qualifications	<p>Doctoral level training in clinical psychology, as accredited by the HCPC, including specifically models of psychopathology, clinical psychometrics and neuropsychology, two or more distinct psychological therapies and lifespan developmental psychology.</p> <p>Recognised pre or postdoctoral training in neuropsychology.</p>	<p>Training and Qualifications in research methodology, staff training, and/or other fields of psychology.</p> <p>Completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology (or prepared to undertake/commence within 24 months)</p> <p>Completion of an appropriate supervision course to enable supervision of trainees (or complete within 12 months).</p>
Skills and Abilities	<p>Well-developed knowledge of the theory and practice of specialised psychological therapies with complex, difficult to treat groups ie people living with the effects of acquired brain damage such as impaired communication, insight and reasoning, challenging behaviour and high emotional distress</p> <p>Highly developed skills in the use of complex methods of psychological assessment, intervention and management frequently requiring sustained and intense concentration.</p> <p>Highly developed skills in the ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, complex, highly technical and/or clinically sensitive information to clients, their families, carers and other professional colleagues</p> <p>Skills in providing consultation to other professional and non-professional groups.</p> <p>Doctoral level knowledge of research methodology, research design and complex, multivariate data analysis as practised within the clinical fields of psychology.</p>	<p>High-level knowledge of the theory and practice of at least two specialised psychological therapies.</p>

	<p>Knowledge of legislation, national and local policy and their implications for both clinical practice and professional management in relation to the client group</p>	
<p>Experience and Knowledge</p>	<p>Post-qualification experience of psychological assessment and treatment of clients across the full range of care settings, including outpatient, community, primary care and in patient settings.</p> <p>Experience of working with a wide variety of client groups, across the whole life course presenting problems that reflect the full range of clinical severity including maintaining a high degree of professionalism in the face of highly emotive and distressing problems, verbal abuse and the threat of physical abuse.</p> <p>Considerable experience of working with people with stroke and other neurological disabilities.</p> <p>Experience of teaching, training and/or supervision.</p> <p>Experience of the application of clinical psychology in different cultural contexts.</p>	<p>Experience of undertaking research or service evaluation or audit within the NHS and the verbal and written dissemination of findings.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Ability to teach and train others, using a variety of complex multi-media materials suitable for presentations within public, professional and academic settings.</p> <p>Ability to identify and employ mechanisms of clinical governance as appropriate, to support and maintain clinical practice.</p> <p>Flexible and autonomous approach to clinical work.</p>	<p>Professional publications in peer reviewed academic journals and/or books.</p>