

JOB DESCRIPTION

Section One

Job Title: Lead Psychologist Community Services

Band: 8b

Service: Adult Mental Health

Managerially responsible to: Team Manager, Locality Service Manager, Deputy Care Group Director

Professionally accountable to: DCG Community Psychological Professional Lead, Director for Psychological Professionals

Lines of Professional Accountability:



2.0 Job Summary

- 2.1 Accountable for own professional practice in the delivery of highly specialist psychological care to clients within a community mental health team. Client present with highly complex and contentious mental health conditions or learning disabilities which include challenging behaviours and possible risk of physical aggression.
- 2.2 To be compassionate in meeting the needs of clients, their carers and families.
- 2.3 To provide clinical supervision and training to less experienced colleagues within the designated psychology service and to other members of the multidisciplinary team.
- 2.4 To undertake formal research as a major part of the job and act as field supervisor to doctorate trainees.
- 2.5 To be proactive in continual service improvement and to support the ongoing CMHT transformation.
- 2.6 To promote at all times a positive image of people with mental ill health or learning disabilities.
- 2.7 To promote at all times a positive image of the service and the wider Trust.

3.0 Main Duties and Responsibilities

3.1 Clinical Responsibilities, Patient Contact

- 3.1.1 Provides highly specialist psychological assessment of clients with highly complex and contentious conditions based on the appropriate use, interpretation and integration of data from a variety of sources.
- 3.1.2 Responsible for recognizing the potential for or signs of client harm, abuse or neglect, including poor clinical practice, reporting all such concerns and taking all reasonable steps to protect the client. Responsible for identifying and reporting concerns regarding the safeguarding of children who may be at risk.
- 3.1.3 Undertakes risk assessment and risk management for individual clients and provides highly specialist advice to other professionals on psychological aspects of risk assessment and risk management and the high physical risks inherent in the client group.
- 3.1.4 Formulates plans for highly specialist psychological therapy and/or management of clients' mental health conditions based upon an appropriate conceptual framework and evidence-based practice. Negotiates the implementation of such plans with clients and/or their carers.
- 3.1.5 Implements a range of highly specialist psychological therapies for individual clients, carers, families and groups, adjusting and refining psychological formulations as required.

- 3.1.6 Undertakes highly skilled evaluations and makes decisions about treatment options.
- 3.1.7 Provides highly specialist psychological advice, guidance and consultation to other staff contributing directly to client's diagnosis, formulation and intervention plan.
- 3.1.8 Facilitates decision-making by planning and mapping processes/interventions with members of the team to determine the most appropriate treatment modality or service for clients.
- 3.1.9 Leads the multi-disciplinary care team in the development and implementation of multi-disciplinary care plans where appropriate. Monitors progress during the course of multidisciplinary interventions.
- 3.1.10 Required to provide a specialist clinical lead for community mental health and learning disabilities service working closely with all psychological professionals.

3.2 Administrative Responsibilities

- 3.2.1 May be required to undertake administrative tasks in relation to own work.
- 3.2.2 Uses Microsoft Office applications on a daily basis.

3.3 Responsibility for Information Systems

- 3.3.1 Responsible for maintaining accurate and comprehensive patient/client records using PARIS or other Trust approved systems (e.g. System One, C-NOMIS) in accordance with the Trust and professional record keeping standards.
- 3.3.2 Writes reports for other members of the multidisciplinary team and external parties regarding patient/client related matters.
- 3.3.3 Uses psychometric testing software packages.
- 3.3.4 May use software packages for statistical analysis.

3.4 Responsibility for Planning/Organizing & Strategic/Business Development

- 3.4.1 Organizes own workload on a day to day basis, prioritizing work as appropriate.
- 3.4.2 Allocates work to highly specialist applied psychologists.
- 3.4.3 Plans individual patient/client care and where appropriate co-ordinates care within the multidisciplinary team and external agencies.
- 3.4.4 Advises senior colleagues on those aspects of the service which may need addressing at a strategic level.

3.5 Policy Development

- 3.5.1 Ensures that new or revised policies and procedures are communicated effectively and put into practice.
- 3.5.2 Pro-active in identifying and proposing changes to policies within own area.
- 3.5.3 Participates in the development, monitoring and evaluation of operational and professional policies in own area.

3.6 Service Development, Project Management

- 3.6.1 Pro-active in identifying and proposing safety, quality and service improvements within own work area.
- 3.6.2 Participates as a member of the team in the development, monitoring and evaluation of service developments in own area.

3.7 Financial Responsibilities

- 3.7.1 Personal duty of care

3.8 Responsibility for Physical Resources, Estates, Hotel Services

- 3.8.1 Has a personal duty of care to ensure all equipment is used safely and effectively, following manufacturer's instructions, immediately reporting any defects in accordance with local procedures.
- 3.8.2 Uses available resources efficiently and effectively.
- 3.8.3 Uses psychological test equipment.

3.9 Research and Audit

- 3.9.1 Maintains an active engagement with current developments in the field of psychology and related disciplines and utilize theory, evidenced based literature and research to support evidence-based practice in individual work and work with other team members.
- 3.9.2 Undertakes formal psychological research and development pertaining to own clinical specialty, on an on-going basis constituting at least 20% of working time.
- 3.9.3 Acts as field supervisor for the doctorate in clinical/counselling psychology theses providing expertise in specialist clinical area.
- 3.9.4 Provides highly specialist advice and supervision to other staff undertaking research.

3.10 Staff Management, Training and Development, HR

- 3.10.1 Provides clinical supervision to less experienced psychology staff and members of the wider multidisciplinary team.
- 3.10.2 Provides pre and post-qualification and doctoral teaching to highly specialist psychologists, psychologists and doctoral trainees in clinical/counselling psychology.
- 3.10.3 Provides specialist advice and training where appropriate to other staff within the designated service and members of the multidisciplinary team.
- 3.10.4 Provides clinical placements and contributes to competency assessment for trainee doctoral clinical/counselling psychologists, ensuring that trainees acquire the necessary skills and experience to contribute effectively to psychological practice.
- 3.10.5 Professionally oversees the clinical work of highly specialist applied psychologists including work allocation, checking record keeping and quality of care delivered and providing clinical guidance as required.
- 3.10.6 Participates in the recruitment and selection of psychology staff and staff of other disciplines as appropriate.
- 3.10.7 Responsible for ensuring that all staff within area of responsibility adhere to professional practice guidelines and that mechanisms are in place to ensure that performance standards are met.

4.0 Communication

- 4.1 Communicates in a way which recognizes difference and ensures that people feel included and their individual communication needs are met.
- 4.2 Communicates highly complex, highly sensitive and contentious information to clients during the course of psychological therapy where the atmosphere may be highly emotive, there may be barriers to understanding or the client may react in an antagonistic or hostile manner.
- 4.3 Shares information relating to psychological assessment and formulation with clients, carers and families in a responsive, empathic manner, taking into consideration the possible complexities of the family's circumstances and the highly sensitive nature of the information.
- 4.4 Communicates effectively with all professionals involved in the client's care including all members of the multidisciplinary team, general practitioners, Social Services, education providers, voluntary agencies, user/carer groups etc, to maximize the quality of service delivered to clients and their families and carers.

5.0 Analysis and Judgement

- 5.1 Analyses highly complex client information, derived 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 the client, family members and others involved in the client's care.
- 5.2 Adjusts and refines psychological formulations drawing upon different explanatory models and maintaining a number of provisional hypotheses.
- 5.3 Evaluates and makes 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, family or group.
- 5.4 Assesses, diagnoses and makes clinical judgements involving a range of highly complex factors in the context of inadequate or unavailable information, equivocal research/evidence or where expert opinion differs (e.g. conflict between medical and psychological models).

6.0 Freedom to Act

- 6.1 Works as an autonomous practitioner accountable for own professional practice in respect of assessment, therapy and discharge of clients within defined caseload.
- 6.2 Works within the Professional Codes of Conduct of the Health Professions Council and the British Psychological Society.
- 6.3 Professionally accountable to the Locality Lead for Psychological Professionals.
- 6.4 Uses significant discretion as appropriate in applying clinical/professional policies.

7.0 Personal Responsibilities

The post holder must:

- 7.1 Comply with the terms of the contract of employment, the Staff Compact and the Trust's Statement of Values and Behaviours.
- 7.2 Be aware of, comply with and keep up to date with all Trust Policies and Procedures and other communications relevant to the role.
- 7.3 Maintain registration with the appropriate professional body where applicable and comply with the relevant code of conduct and standards of professional practice.
- 7.4 Fully participate in management, clinical and professional supervision sessions relevant to the role, as required by the Trust.
- 7.5 Fully participate in annual appraisal and appraisal reviews.

- 7.6 Maintain up to date knowledge and competency in the skills required to perform safely and effectively in the role. Undertake relevant training (including statutory and mandatory training) and be responsible for personal development agreed with the line manager and in line with the requirements of the AFC Knowledge and Skills Framework.

8.0 Other requirements

- 8.1 The post holder may be required to undertake duties not specified in the job description, but which are commensurate with the role and/or band as required by service need.
- 8.2 The post holder may be required to work in locations other than those specified in the job description as required by service need.
- 8.3 The post holder may be required to work flexible hours as required by service need.
- 8.4 There may be a requirement to change the job description in light of developing service needs.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-graduate training (doctoral level equivalent) in clinical / counselling / forensic psychology (or its equivalent prior to 1996) as accredited by the BPS. • HCPC registration as a Practitioner Psychologist • Post doctoral training in one or more additional specialized areas of psychological practice • Trained in clinical supervision and the supervision of doctoral trainees • Evidence of continuing professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration with BPS • Accredited supervisor for SMI presentations
Experience	<p>Must have substantial experience of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working as a qualified applied psychologist within community mental health services, including a wide variety of client groups, across the whole life course and a range of clinical severity across the full range of care settings. • Experience and additional training for working with complex presentations including SMI; including Complex Emotional Needs, Psychosis and Bi-polar Affective Disorder, Trauma, Anxiety disorders and mood disorders. • Experienced in care co-ordination (or case management) • Exercising full clinical responsibility for clients' psychological care as a care co-ordinator/ case management and leader of a multidisciplinary team. • Liaison and joint working with statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies • Teaching, training, clinical supervision and field supervisor for doctoral theses. • Research and development • Active participation in quality and service improvement initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Experience of the transformation of mental health services and development of clinical pathways. • Leadership experience of psychological and non-psychological staff

Knowledge	<p>Doctoral level knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence- based practice relevant to the role • Risk assessment and risk management • Clinical governance • Knowledge of legislation in relation to the client group and mental health and its implications for clinical practice. • Audit and research methodology • Social Inclusion agenda <p>Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust's Quality Improvement System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly developed knowledge and skills in the care of difficult to treat groups e.g. dual diagnoses, additional disabilities or severely challenging behavior
Skills	<p>Must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate highly complex, highly sensitive and contentious information effectively, to a wide range of people • Adapt creatively the evidence base for interventions in mental health for clients with communication difficulties / learning disabilities. • Articulate the value added by applied psychology services within the context of multidisciplinary mental health and learning disability healthcare provision. • Undertake complex multiagency working and liaise with multiple systems • Utilise psychometric tests competently • Provide effective teaching, training and clinical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvement and Project Management

	<p>supervision for the multidisciplinary team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, provide and promote appropriate interventions / means of support for carers and staff exposed to highly distressing situations and challenging behaviours. • Utilise appropriate clinical governance mechanisms within own work. • Use approved breakaway techniques • Demonstrate effective keyboard skills • Use multimedia materials for presentations in professional, academic and public settings. 	
Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work in accordance with the Staff Compact and Trust Values and Behaviours. • Able to engage with vulnerable people and work effectively in highly distressing and challenging circumstances • Able to work flexibly and co-operatively as part of a team • Able to use own initiative and make decisions independently • Committed to continual quality and service improvement • Self-aware and committed to professional and personal development. Able to accept and respond positively to feedback from supervision • Enthusiasm for a broad range of psychological phenomena, theories and application. 	
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to travel in accordance with Trust policies and service need. • This post is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check. 	

JOB DESCRIPTION AGREEMENT

Post Holder

Sign..... Date.....

Print Name.....

Line Manager

Sign..... Date.....

Print Name.....

Print Job Title.....