

**PAEDIATRIC CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST**  
**JOB DESCRIPTION**  
**Band 7 (0.5wte) or 8a (0.4wte)**

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| <b>Job Title:</b>                     | Locum Specialist/ Highly Specialist Paediatric Practitioner Psychologist  |
| <b>Professionally accountable to:</b> | Lead Paediatric Clinical Psychologist at Royal Brompton Hospital (RBH)  |
| <b>Responsible for:</b>               | Attached trainee clinical psychologists and assistant And/or graduate psychologists   |
| <b>Grade:</b>                         | Band 7 or 8a depending on experience  |
| <b>Bases:</b>                         | Paediatric Clinical Psychology Service at Royal Brompton Hospital   |
| <b>Liaises with:</b>                  | Paediatric Clinical Psychology Team members, and members of other disciplines and agencies responsible for a patient's care both at RBH and in community. |

**JOB SUMMARY**

To provide a qualified clinical psychology service to patients of the Paediatric Psychology Service at Royal Brompton Hospital, across all sectors of care. Direct work with children, young people and their families would be required, as well as consultation to other professionals. Experience of working in a Paediatric Psychology setting is desirable.

To provide specialist psychological assessment and therapy at the same time as offering advice and consultation about patients' psychological care to non-psychologist colleagues and the child/ young person's non-professional carers. To work autonomously within professional guidelines and the overall framework of the teams' policies and procedures. To utilize research skills for audit, policy and service development and research of relevance to children, young people, their families and carers.

## **WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

RBH offers medical and surgical services to an ethnically and socio-economically diverse population. It is one of the largest cardiothoracic centres in Europe and is at the leading edge nationally and internationally in the investigation, treatment and care of people with heart and lung conditions. This comprises the following subspecialties: respiratory medicine (including cystic fibrosis, asthma and primary ciliary dyskinesia), cardiology (including inherited cardiac conditions), foetal cardiology and cardiac and thoracic surgery.

## **KEY RESULT AREAS**

### **Clinical:**

1. To provide specialist psychological assessments of patients referred to the team 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, family members and others involved in the client's care.
2. To formulate and implement plans for the formal psychological treatment and/or management of a client's mental health problems based upon an appropriate conceptual framework of the client's problems, and employing methods based upon evidence of efficacy, across the full range of care settings.
3. To be responsible for implementing a range of psychological interventions for individuals, carers, families and groups, within and across teams employed individually and in synthesis, adjusting and refining psychological formulations drawing upon different explanatory models and maintaining a number of provisional hypotheses.
4. To evaluate and make 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. To exercise autonomous professional responsibility for the assessment, treatment and discharge of patients whose problems are managed by psychologically based standard care plans.
6. To provide specialist psychological advice guidance and consultation to other professionals contributing directly to patients' formulation, diagnosis and treatment plan.

7. To contribute directly and indirectly to a psychologically based framework of understanding and care to the benefit of all patients of the service, across all settings and agencies serving the client group.
8. To undertake risk assessment and risk management for individual patients and to provide advice to other professions on psychological aspects of risk assessment and risk management following the Trust's safeguarding policies at all times.
9. To act as care coordinator, where appropriate, taking responsibility for initiating planning and review of psychological care plans, including patients, their carers, referring agents and others involved the network of care.
10. To communicate in a skilled and sensitive manner, information concerning the assessment, formulation and treatment plans of patients under their care and to monitor progress during the course of both uni- and multi-disciplinary care.

### **Teaching, training, and supervision**

1. To receive regular clinical professional supervision from a more senior clinical psychologist and, where appropriate, other senior professional colleagues.
2. To continue to gain wider post-qualification experience of clinical psychology over and above that provided within the principal service area where the post holder is employed, the amount and nature of such experience to be agreed with the lead paediatric clinical psychologist.
3. To develop skills in the area of professional post-graduate teaching, training and supervision and to provide supervision to other MDT staff's psychological work
4. To provide professional and clinical supervision of trainee and assistant clinical psychologists as appropriate
5. To contribute to the pre- and post-qualification teaching of clinical and/or counseling psychology, as appropriate
6. To provide advice, consultation and training to staff working with the client group across a range of agencies and settings, where appropriate

### **Management, recruitment, policy and service development**

1. To contribute to the development, evaluation and monitoring of the team's operational policies and services, through the deployment of professional skills in research, service evaluation and audit.
2. To advise both service and professional management on those aspects of the service where psychological and/or organisational matters need addressing.
3. To support management of the workloads of assistant and trainee clinical psychologists, within the framework of the team/service's policies and procedures.
4. To be involved, as appropriate, in the short listing and interviewing of assistant / graduate psychologists.

### **Research and service evaluation**

1. To utilise theory, evidence-based literature and research to support evidence-based practice in individual work and work with other team members.
2. To undertake appropriate research and provide advice to other staff undertaking research.
3. To undertake project management, including complex audit and service evaluation, with colleagues within the service to help develop service provision.
4. To familiarise themselves with, and to comply with, the Trust's requirements on research governance.

### **Information technology**

1. To use computers and computer software to prepare reports and documents relevant to working duties.
2. When required to enter data into Trust patient administration systems and to work using databases in the course of clinical duties.

### **Communication**

1. To communicate with a wide range of other professionals within the MDT and primary and secondary care settings and across services. To include social and education services involving complex communication.

2. To communicate with children of all ages and their parents/carers at a time of possible distress and stress. This both face to face and using other remote forms of working (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Attend Anywhere)
3. Effective complex communication will be required in both written and verbal forms.
4. As a key element of the job the post-holder will offer consultation and advice to colleagues of his/her own profession and others working in primary, secondary and tertiary care in the development and management of highly specialised programmes of care. This will involve both formal and informal consultations with attention paid to the organisational climate that contributes to effective working and client/patient care.

## **General**

1. To contribute to the development and maintenance of the highest professional standards of practice, through active participation in internal and external CPD training and development programmes, in consultation with the post- holder's professional and service manager(s).
2. To contribute to the development and articulation of best practice in psychology across the service, by continuing to develop 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.
3. To maintain 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, the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC) and Trust policies and procedures.
4. To maintain up to date knowledge of legislation, national and local policies and issues in relation to both the specific client group and mental health.

### ***To be noted:***

- **This is not an exhaustive list of duties and responsibilities, and the post holder may be required to undertake other duties which fall within the grade of the job, in discussion with the manager.**
- **This job description will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing Service requirements and any such changes will be discussed with the post holder.**
- **The post holder is expected to comply with all relevant Trust policies, Procedures and guidelines, including those relating to Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Confidentiality of Information, clinical governance including research governance.**

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**  
**Job title: Clinical Psychologist**

|                                      | ESSENTIAL  | DESIRABLE   | HOW TESTED |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>TRAINING &amp; QUALIFICATIONS</b> | <p>Post –graduate training in applied psychology (or its equivalent for those trained prior to 1996), including specifically models of psychopathology, clinical psychometrics and neuropsychology, two or more distinct psychological therapies and lifespan developmental psychology.</p> <p>Registration with the HCPC as a practitioner psychologist.</p> <p>Solid evidence of being able to conduct assessment and interventions with adults and children as a practitioner psychologist.</p>   | <p>Pre-qualification training and qualifications in research methodology, staff training and/or other fields of applied psychology.</p>   |            |
| <b>EXPERIENCE</b>                    | <p>Experience of specialist psychological assessment and treatment of patients 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 with 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>Demonstrate further specialist training/ experience through having received a minimum of 50 hours clinical supervision of working as a specialist child and adolescent clinical psychologist over a minimum of 2 years, or an alternative agreed by the Chief Psychologist.</p> <p>Experience of working in a paediatric psychology setting either during training and/or post qualification.</p> <p>Post qualification experience of working in a child and adolescent psychology setting.</p> <p>Experience of teaching, training and/or supervision.</p> <p>Experience of the application of clinical psychology in different cultural contexts</p> |            |
| <b>KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS</b>          | <p>Skills in the use of complex methods of psychological assessment, intervention and management frequently requiring sustained and intense concentration.</p> <p>Well developed skills in the ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, complex, highly technical and/or clinically sensitive information to patients, their families, carers and other professional colleagues both within and outside the NHS.</p> <p>Skills in providing consultation to other professional and non-professional groups.</p>          | <p>Knowledge of the theory and practice of specialised psychological therapies in specific difficult to treat groups (e.g. personality disorder, dual diagnoses, people with additional disabilities etc).</p> <p>High level knowledge of the theory and practice of at least two specialised psychological therapies.</p>  |            |

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|       | <p>Doctoral (or equivalent as above) level knowledge of research methodology, research design and complex, multivariate data analysis as practiced within the clinical fields of psychology.</p> <p>Evidence of continuing professional development as recommended by the BPS.</p>  | <p>Knowledge of legislation in relation to the client group and mental health.</p> <p>Formal training in supervision of other psychologists.</p> |  |
| OTHER | <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.</p> <p>To support and maintain clinical practice in the face of regular exposure to highly emotive material and challenging behaviour.</p> | <p>Experience of working within a multicultural framework.</p>   |  |