

SENIOR THERAPIST – ROLE DESCRIPTION

Blue Smile's mission is to improve the mental wellbeing and prospects of Cambridgeshire children through arts-based therapies. The charity has over 70 clinical workers, working in teams and as individuals in schools in Cambridgeshire, giving vital therapy and mentoring to children.

Safeguarding is central to all Blue Smile activities, and we recognise that the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk, is paramount and that all have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are in our charge, and we will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide therapeutic support to children and young people, making clinical assessments of the most appropriate support to provide
- Complete assessment and outcome measures
- Maintain and store accurate and up-to-date records preserving appropriate confidentiality
- Ensure all client files are up-to-date and that outcome measures are being compiled correctly
- Input outcome measures onto the statistics spreadsheet in consultation with the School Clinical Lead
- Meet with parents/carers and teachers to inform the clinical work and support trainee therapists and mentors with these meetings
- Attend clinical team meetings to inform the clinical work
- Support volunteer trainee therapists and mentors
- Report any safeguarding or child protection concerns immediately to the Blue Smile School Clinical Lead and the school's Designated Person for Child Protection in keeping with Blue Smile's Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy and Cause for Concern Procedures
- In consultation with the Blue Smile School Clinical Lead, liaise with the school's Head and staff in support of their work with their clients, maintaining good working relations and communications and acting as the main point of contact if the School Clinical Lead is absent

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- a recognised Masters, PGDip or equivalent level qualification in counselling or therapy with children and young people
- at least one year's post-qualification experience or equivalent as a practising counsellor or therapist with children and young people
- current membership of BACP, UKCP or equivalent
- an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list
- professional liability insurance policy
- an ability to keep accurate and confidential records

- competency in working within a recognised theoretical framework
- an understanding of working with vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people
- knowledge of best practice and an ability to apply this to the role
- good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team in a school setting
- an understanding of equal opportunities and an open approach
- an ability to operate within Blue Smile’s policies and procedures and Practice Standards

Desirable:

- one year’s placement undertaken with Blue Smile
- experience of working in a school

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

It is the responsibility of the Senior Therapist to ensure they fulfil professional supervision requirements and attend Blue Smile supervisions if possible. They may need to secure additional private supervision to meet the requirements of their professional organisational membership. They are also expected to take up opportunities for continuing professional development.

The Senior Therapist abides by BACP’s Ethical Codes of Practice for therapy, by Blue Smile’s policies, procedures and Practice Standards and by the rules and regulations of the designated school. It is particularly important that they follow Blue Smile’s Safeguarding and Child protection procedures.

ROLE FLEXIBILITY

This is a general role outline and may be amended as reasonable by mutual discussion to support Blue Smile’s development and growth. The Senior Therapist may be requested to undertake other reasonable extra duties from time to time, as agreed between them and service managers.

If unable to attend the school, the Senior Therapist may need to arrange a substitute for some portions of the role, as agreed with the Clinical Services Manager and the Blue Smile School Clinical Lead.