

OUTREACH 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.

The Outreach Therapist is contracted by Blue Smile to work in its Outreach service in schools and organisations in Cambridgeshire and the surrounding areas.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold a clinical caseload of up to a maximum of 4 children per day including undertaking all casework admin
- Act as main point of contact with the school, including undertaking initial and new referral meetings
- Meet with parents/carers and teachers to inform clinical work
- Ensure referral forms are fully completed and signed by the parent before taking a referral
- Ensure all consents are in place before beginning therapeutic work
- Use Blue Smile's client record management system, Charitylog, to collect, record, maintain and store accurate, up-to-date clinical data and information in keeping with Blue Smile's policies including the Note-taking, Recording, Storage & Use of Records Policy, Data Protection Policy and Confidentiality Policy
- Write initial client assessments, end of term reports and end of work documentation
- Write brief reports for school or external agencies if required
- Report safeguarding or child protection concerns immediately to the school's designated person for child protection and to the Clinical Services Manager/Charity Director in keeping with Blue Smile's Safeguarding Children and Adults policy and cause for concern procedures
- Check email account for the role and reply to emails within a reasonable timeframe
- Liaise with the Services Coordinator to ensure a quality service is maintained; meeting as necessary
- Provide a suitable, age-appropriate kit to carry out your therapeutic sessions with Blue Smile children (consumables allowance available).
- Ensure safe storage of clients' artwork

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

It is the responsibility of the Outreach Therapist to:

- Ensure they fulfil the supervision requirements of their professional body and share details of their supervisor with Blue Smile
- Keep up to date with opportunities for continuing professional development

- Adhere to Blue Smile’s policies, procedures, and Practice Standards
- Adhere to the rules and regulations of the referring organisation
- Abide by BACP’s Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- a recognised Masters, PGDip or equivalent (level 6 or above) 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
- the ability to work independently within the school setting
- 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
- an understanding of equal opportunities and an open approach

Desirable:

- experience of working in a school
- experience of using a client record management system

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 Outreach 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 Outreach Therapist may need to arrange a substitute for some portions of the role, as agreed with the Clinical Services Manager.

To facilitate supportive and managed endings, Blue Smile would encourage the Outreach Therapist to discuss any plans to withdraw from the work with the Services Co-ordinator or Clinical Services Manager at the earliest opportunity.