

## SESSIONAL THERAPIST – ROLE DESCRIPTION

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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 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.

Sessional Therapists are contracted to provide 1:1 therapeutic support to children and young people in Blue Smile Partner Schools and Outreach Schools.

### ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold a clinical caseload of 4-5 children per day for 20 sessions (plus meetings). This includes undertaking caseload administration as part of the clinical hour.
- Meet with parents/carers at the start and end of the clinical work, collecting appropriate outcome and feedback measures
- Meet with teachers at the start and end of the clinical work, collecting appropriate outcome and feedback measures
- 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
- Report safeguarding or child protection concerns immediately to the school's designated person for child protection and to Blue Smile's Designated Safeguarding Lead, in keeping with Blue Smile's Safeguarding Children and Adults policy and Cause for Concern procedures
- Liaise with the Blue Smile School Clinical Lead (Partner Schools) or Service Coordinator (Outreach Schools) to ensure new referrals can be allocated in a timely manner to plan for continuity of provision
- To understand your role in whole school wellbeing and support the setting to promote a positive wellbeing culture

### **In addition, as a 1:1 Sessional Therapist in an Outreach School you will:**

- Act as main point of contact with the school, including undertaking initial and new referral meetings
- Liaise with the Service Coordinator to ensure a quality service is maintained
- Provide a suitable, age-appropriate kit to carry out your therapeutic sessions with Blue Smile children (consumables allowance available).

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Essential:

- a recognised Masters, PGDip or equivalent (level 6 or above) qualification in counselling or therapy with children and young people
- experience of working with children and young people in a counselling/therapeutic capacity. For Sessional Therapists in Outreach Schools, we require one year's post-qualification experience.
- an ability to operate within Blue Smile's policies and procedures
- current membership of BACP, UKCP or equivalent
- an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list
- professional liability insurance policy
- experience of responding to safeguarding concerns and monitoring outcomes
- an ability to keep accurate and confidential records
- 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 eg: Charitylog

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

It is the responsibility of the Sessional Therapist to ensure they fulfil professional supervision requirements.

Sessional Therapists for Blue Smile abide by BACP's Ethical Codes of Practice for therapy, Blue Smile's policies, procedures and practice standards and by the rules and regulations of the designated school.

## 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 Sessional Therapist may be required to undertake other reasonable extra duties from time to time, as agreed between them and service managers.

If unable to attend the school, the Sessional Therapist may need to arrange a substitute for some portions of the role, as agreed with the Clinical Services Manager.