

## TRAINEE THERAPIST ON PLACEMENT – 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.

### PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

Blue Smile offers volunteer Trainee Therapist clinical placements to counselling and psychotherapy students, who have been awarded their readiness to practice from their training organisation, to gain experience of direct therapeutic work with children and to accumulate hours towards their professional qualification.

Trainee Therapists on placement work as part of a team in one of Blue Smile's partner schools in Cambridge and the surrounding areas. They are supported by a School Clinical Lead in their designated school and by the clinical and operations teams in the Blue Smile office.

### ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide 1:1 therapeutic sessions to children and young people, working with 3 children for a maximum of 20 sessions, on one day a week during term-time in the designated partner school
- Use Charity Log, our client record management system, to record accurate session notes and outcome measures
- Have meetings with parents/carers and teachers with support from the School Clinical Lead
- 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
- Trainee Therapists commit to their clients in line with Blue Smile's 20 week therapy model and will have this in mind when taking on new clients.

### SUPERVISION, TRAINING & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Trainee Therapists on placement are required to:

- Sign a Blue Smile Supervision agreement, providing details of their external supervisor, ensuring that they meet Blue Smile's criteria for Supervisors
- Provide a Placement Agreement from their training organisation with confirmation of their readiness to practice
- Ensure their School Clinical Lead has the relevant information from their training organisation so that placement feedback can be provided

- Attend a safer recruitment induction at Blue Smile's office in Cambridge and an induction in the school setting with their School Clinical Lead, ensuring that all checks and safeguarding courses are completed before starting work with children
- Ensure that Blue Smile's policies and procedures have been read and understood

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Students applying for a clinical placement will:

- Be studying towards a recognised post-graduate qualification (level 6/7) in counselling, psychotherapy or art therapy with a focus on children and young people, with an accredited training organisation
- Have gained their 'readiness to practice' from their training organisation
- Have experience of direct work or volunteering with children and young people
- Hold a professional liability insurance policy
- Have an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list, ideally registered with the DBS update service (Blue Smile can arrange this).

Trainee therapists on clinical placement need to be able to show:

- An ability to keep accurate and confidential records
- An ability to work within a recognised theoretical framework
- An understanding of working with vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people
- 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
- A willingness to take up continuing professional development opportunities

Desirable:

- Experience of working or volunteering in a school setting