



ellenor Children's Hospice Care
Respite/Short Breaks
Job Description

JOB TITLE: Children's Care Assistant

Reporting to: Clinical Lead Children's Service

Responsible to: Director of Care

Salary: £18,575–£20,297 per annum

ellenor is the provider of all-encompassing hospice care for both adults and children living in North Kent and deliver respite to children and young people living with a life limiting/life threatening condition in Bexley. Our services for adults include Inpatient ward, Living Well programme, Hospice at Home, Care Home Support Team and a range of Wellbeing services, including Therapies. For children in Dartford Gravesham and Swanley we provide clinical nursing support working with children's families to provide care at their place of choice, which is often their own home. This means the children can receive care in familiar surroundings. In addition, for Children in Dartford Gravesham Swanley and Bexley we provide respite and wellbeing services which include, Play therapy, Music Therapy, Counselling, Bereavement support to mention just a few.

Our strategic aims recognise our role in leading the development of services to the wider community for patients with life limiting conditions requiring both palliative and end of life care, and we see an increasing role in education and training and acting as a coordinator to ensure the best possible palliative care is provided to more people and families.

The population of the core area (Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley), where both adult and children's services are provided; is approximately 270,000 people, with over 45,000 adults above the age of 65. The children's service area also extends to Bexley with a total current caseload from all areas covered of around 65 children.

Adult Services

The In-patient Ward currently has 7 beds for patients requiring symptom assessment or end of life care. The team uses a multi-disciplinary approach to support patients and manage their symptoms. The medical team provides medical support to the patients, including ward rounds, admissions, and MDT meetings.

The outpatient Adult Living Well Service, consists of out-patient clinics, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Wellbeing Services which include Complementary Therapy, Counselling, bereavement, family and carers support, and Chaplaincy.

The adult Community Service comprises the Hospice at Home Team and also a Care Home Support Team. The medical team provides support to this service by reviewing patients in clinics, at home and in nursing homes.

Children's Services

The Children's service provides specialist nursing support across Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, caring for children with a life limiting /threatening condition, and providing all the acute community oncology care for children with an oncology diagnosis. Our service predominantly runs Mon to Fri 9 to 5, but the nursing team can step up to 24/7 to support children who are at the end of their life. Our Children's Respite service provides hands on care to children with cancer or palliative care needs in their own homes across Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and Bexley. The medical support for the Children's team is provided by the children's own GP and the Consultants at the Tertiary centres in London

Role Purpose:

The post holder will work as part of our Respite Team, in direct partnership with our team of Specialist Childrens' Nurses. You will be providing 1:1 care to individual children and young people with life limiting/life threatening conditions in their own homes or other community settings. You will also help develop, plan and deliver group activities for children and young people aged 0-19 and their families.

You will be expected to work in partnership with the child and family, working in a sensitive and professional manner, to ensure that the child's emotional, social and physical needs are met in a way which enhances their quality of life. You will undertake a range of duties to support the personal care needs of the child/young person, and you will be supported to undertake training to meet any complex healthcare needs

Internal Key relationships

- Chief Executive
- Director of Care
- Executive Management Team
- Senior Management Team
- Inpatient Unit
- Adult Hospice @ Home Service
- Childrens service clinical team
- Play Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Wellbeing Team
- Facilities staff
- Clinical administration department
- Fundraising team

External Key relationships (this list is not exhaustive but identifies some of the key stakeholders)

- Tertiary Centres
- Paediatric Consultants
- Local community groups
- Children's Community therapy Services and dietetics
- GP Federation
- Children's Community Nursing Teams
- Local Kent and London Children's Hospices
- Social services - Children with disability team

The duties outlined below are not definitive and may be changed in accordance with the needs of the organisation.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Service delivery:

- To provide holistic planned care under the guidance of the Clinical Nursing team, whilst working in collaboration with the family, education, health and social services. This care will encompass all aspects of the child/young person's needs including physical, social and emotional elements.
- To contribute to the monitoring and review of care plans by communicating any changes to a child's care needs.
- To have knowledge of Safeguarding Children procedures and policies, have the ability to recognise a child at risk, and know how to escalate this to ensure the child's safety.

Clinical:

- To provide 1:1 care to children in their own homes according to their individualised care plan. This may include feeding, washing, play and general activities to help support families
- To participate in the planning and provision of groups and family activities.
- Play is recognised as an important activity for all children. The post holder is responsible for planning and providing a stimulating and enjoyable environment appropriate to the child's developmental stage.
- To carry out extended role nursing procedures as appropriate to the current caseload. For example (but not exclusively) tube feeding, tracheostomy care, non-invasive ventilation, suctioning and use of a cough assist machine. The post holder will receive appropriate support and training to undertake these skills, and following a period of supervised practice will then go through a competency assessment. A list of additional skills achieved will be added to the post-holder's personnel file

Administrative:

- To work respectfully and sensitively within the family home, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained and protected at all times.
- To ensure that information is communicated and documented effectively to the clinical nurse team or other professionals as is expedient for the wellbeing of the child.
- To contact the Clinical Lead or Children's clinical nurse specialist if at any time there is a concern regarding the child's condition or any aspects of the child's care.
- To submit claims for expenses and hours worked on a regular basis.
- To maintain a diary showing whereabouts.
- To ensure that records of work undertaken are completed and up to date.

Professional Development, Education and Training:

- To maintain personal and professional boundaries at all times.
- To work independently in a variety of settings, balancing competing priorities, and being prepared to adapt the support offered to meet the needs of a family within working hours.
- At all times to promote the work of **ellenor** and to behave as a fit representative, upholding its policies and procedures and reflecting its values.
- Any employee of **ellenor** has a responsibility to act professionally and therefore to raise with their Line Manager any situation, event or behaviour which does not fit within this framework.
- To work co-operatively as part of the children's team, valuing other members strengths, and being prepared to share your experience and skills with others
- To attend regular clinical supervision and statutory training courses as required.
- To undertake annual performance review and recognise this as an opportunity to identify areas for personal and professional development.
- To behave in a way that values diversity and respects a family's culture and religion, ensuring all families are offered the same access to ellenor services
- To act as an ambassador for ellenor in order to raise the profile of the organisation at local, regional and national level as required

Health and Safety:

- The post holder has responsibility to take reasonable care of self and others in relation to managing risk, health and safety and will be required to work within the appropriate policies and procedures.

This job description is not intended to be restrictive but is an outline of the main duties. The job description will be reviewed periodically to take into account developments in the organisation, department, or role.

Postholder's Name :

Postholder's Signature Date

Manager's name:

Manager's Signature Date