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hospice care in your home or ours

Job Description

Play Therapist

ellenor.org

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Registered Charity No: 1121561

[@ellenorcharity](https://www.instagram.com/ellenorcharity)



Job Title: Play Therapist

Department: Counselling & Psychosocial Services

Contract Terms: Flexible – including evening and weekend sessions,
22.5 hours per week

Salary: £31,331 pro rata

Location: ellenor Hospice, Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Responsible To: Operational Lead Counselling & Psychosocial
Services

Accountable To: Director of Care

Manages: N/A

About Us:

The organisation has in-patient ward, at the Hospice in Northfleet, comprehensive adult and children and young people's community services and a range of out-patient and wellbeing services all supported and delivered through a multi-disciplinary team (MDT).

The In-patient Ward for adults currently has 7 beds. The Medical Service provides medical support to adult inpatient and outpatients, including ward rounds, admissions, home visits and MDT meetings.

There is an outpatient Adult Living Well Service, out-patient clinics along with Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Wellbeing Services provided including Complementary Therapy, Counselling, bereavement and family and carers support, and Chaplaincy.

The Community Service comprises the Adult 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.

The Children's Hospice at Home service provides specialist nursing support as well as hands on nursing and short breaks to children with cancer or palliative care needs in their own homes. 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.

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.



Scope and Job purpose

To ensure the delivery of high-quality specialist therapeutic support through Play Therapy and Child-Parent Relationship Therapy, to children and their families under the care of **ellenor** including bereaved children, children with life-limiting conditions and oncology needs and children of adult patients.

To undertake assessments and use specialist skills and knowledge, working within a person-centred approach, to implement group/individual sessions in a range of formats as appropriate to meet the needs of the service users.



Main Duties and Responsibilities

Clinical Responsibilities:

To lead on the development of the Play Therapy Service to ensure that we are providing high quality care and support to children and their families

To provide Play Therapy to children under the care of ellenor. This will include face-to-face sessions, remote sessions, and in some circumstances will include visiting clients in their homes, place of education, or in community settings

To deliver Child-Parent Relationship Therapy to children and their families under the care of ellenor

To receive, manage and triage Play Therapy referrals from across ellenor's services and from other sources as deemed appropriate

To complete all administrative functions of the Play Therapy Service to a high standard including record-keeping, managing new referrals, booking and completing assessments

To ensure all records are completed correctly and in a timely manner in line with the Clinical Documentation Policy

To maintain regular contact with those who are on the waiting list to ensure high levels of client-care and service are provided

To have full responsibility for managing a caseload as appropriate including children and families with highly complex emotional and psychosocial needs

To arrange, manage and complete assessments of prospective clients as necessary

To receive regular supervision in line with BAPT recommendations

To work closely with other members of the organisation including Creative Therapists, Counsellors, Family Support, our Children's Team, our Wellbeing Team, and wider teams within the organisation, as required, to ensure the needs of children and their families are met and that they are provided with high quality holistic care

To support in the delivery and facilitation of (therapeutic) group sessions where required

To support in the delivery and facilitation of training sessions and workshops to different audiences where required



To provide evening and weekend sessions where necessary

To work flexibly across different locations where required

To support in the development and delivery of wider initiatives within the organisation linked to the care and support of children and their families

To lead on the delivery and facilitation of carer and bereavement support initiatives including GEMS Days, Remembering Day etc (includes occasional weekend working)

To undertake various initiatives to raise awareness of the Play Therapy Service within ellenor and the wider local community

To demonstrate the ability to reflect and respond to the emotional content of clients' individualised modes of communication, including auditory, visual, kinaesthetic, verbal and non-verbal aspects of the patient's expression and to identify appropriate therapeutic strategies

To employ highly developed clinical skills and specialist Play/Art Therapy techniques when establishing therapeutic relationships with referred clients

To adapt practice to meet individual client's circumstances, including due regard for cultural differences

To implement differential intervention programmes based on evidence from assessment

To ensure that clients and carers are involved in the planning of their care wherever possible

To ensure that there is an appropriate plan of support in place for each child which is clearly documented and evaluated

To form effective working relationships with other professionals in multi-professional settings e.g. health, education, social services and all referring agents

To ensure a good level of clinical effectiveness by use of evidence-based practice and outcome measures, and regular attendance and engagement at Clinical Supervision

To work flexibly to help facilitate groups for children and parents outside core office hours

To be vigilant regarding safeguarding issues and ensure that the Organisation's Safeguarding policy is followed when appropriate

To maintain sensitivity at all times to the emotional needs of the client and their carers. In particular when imparting potentially distressing information, dealing with family trauma and following child protection protocols

To promote reflection on practice with peers and mentors and identify own strengths and development needs

To be responsible for managing and reviewing equipment needs within the service

- To take responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy therapeutic area
- To share information with others where required, observing data protection guidelines
- To be involved in the training and education of staff at **ellenor** and external organisations as appropriate, on therapeutic and bereavement issues
- Where necessary, to ensure clients are referred on to services that potentially may more appropriately meet their emotional, psychological or spiritual needs
- To support the Children's Service with services of remembrance, bereavement days for children and other family days
- To provide support to volunteers within your service area, including through mentoring, line management and/or supervision as appropriate
- To be proactive in communicating and liaising with the staff members within the workplace to ensure that the staff can make appropriate referrals
- To attend and contribute to MDT meetings, including the Children's MDT and the Bereavement MDT
- To work in line with the Organisation's Strategic Plan

Administration:

- To provide statistics and reports as required
- To attend meetings as necessary, encouraging communication and aiding liaison both internally and externally
- To maintain up to date and accurate case notes in line with professional standards and local **ellenor** policies
- To hold client records securely and always maintain confidentiality

Development, Education and Training:

- To provide support and appropriate training in relation to therapeutic skills to staff and volunteers working with children
- Conduct workshops for training purposes when requested
- To maintain professional registration and ensure continuing professional development in accordance with requirements of professional registering body
- Be responsible for ongoing professional development through internal and external development opportunities
- Keep supervision and CPD activities up to date and work alongside a professional development plan as appropriate and to ensure Standards of Proficiency for BAPT
- Keep up to date with developments within play therapy and related fields in accordance with BAPT regulations

Attend appropriate meetings of professional associations or other appropriate bodies

Quality, Audit and research:

To actively contribute and take part in any quality measuring systems that the organisation may put in place with regard to the area of your expertise

To contribute to the development of therapeutic services at **ellenor**, including having involvement in evaluation, research and audit or services and their delivery

To be aware of new developments in palliative care

To participate in inter-disciplinary audit projects

To participate in the organisations Clinical Governance programme

Professional Conduct

Each Registered Professional is responsible for his/her own actions and practice and is accountable to patients and those close to them for the care he/she administers he/she must abide by the appropriate code of professional conduct

Always maintain a high degree of professionalism, including when working in challenging situations

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

General:

Adapts and develops in line with the changing needs of the role

Acts as an ambassador for **ellenor** in order to raise the profile of the organisation at a local, regional and national level, as required

To maintain up to date mandatory and essential to role training

Works flexibly across sites and departments from time to time as may be requested by their managers

Undertakes other duties commensurate with the seniority of the post as may be requested by their managers

To follow all policies and procedures

The work within own professional Code of Conduct at all times

To be aware of the CLEAR staff values of **ellenor** and to behave as a fit representative

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.

Job Title: Play Therapist

Education / Qualifications

Ma/MSc in Play Therapy

Qualification in Child-Parent Relationship Therapy, or a willingness to complete the training

Registered as a Play Therapist with British Association for Play Therapist BAPT or PTUK

Experience

Previous experience of delivering Play Therapy sessions to children, ideally within a family service setting

Previous experience of working within a multi-disciplinary setting

Experience of working with children with complex needs

Experience of working with bereaved children and families

Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes

Ability to assess, develop, implement and evaluate Play Therapy in the community and hospice setting

An understanding of hospice philosophy and end of life care, including understanding of the impact of illness, bereavement and complex needs on the whole family

Excellent organisation, group event-planning and event-facilitation skills (GEMS Days)

Good IT skills including the ability to use and learn Microsoft packages, different IT systems/programs

Knowledge of the theory and practice of Play Therapy

Excellent communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively through verbal and non-verbal expression using a range of therapeutic person-centred skills, with people with diverse communication needs

Ability to develop and maintain effective inter-professional relationships

Understanding of the importance of safeguarding, and knowledge of relevant practice and procedures

Ability to use experience to teach Play Therapy skills to others (families, professionals) to aid in facilitating communication

Ability to maintain strong personal and professional/therapeutic boundaries

To show understanding of other therapeutic disciplines and willingness to collaborate where appropriate (e.g. Counselling, Art Therapy, Music Therapy)

Ability to work independently as well as part of a team

Ability to work in an anti-discriminatory way, valuing diversity in children, young people and adults.

Ability to maintain strong personal and professional/therapeutic boundaries

Approachable, empathic, compassionate, self-aware and open to further growth and development

Ability to show initiative

Flexible and ready to work some evenings and weekends

Must be able to engage with children effectively during activities

Full driving license and access to a car is required

