

JOB DESCRIPTION

This job description outlines the key accountabilities of, and output required from, the postholder. It is not a definitive list and the role may well change and evolve over time.

Name:	
Job title:	<i>Senior Specialist Psychologist / Child Psychotherapist / Parent Infant Psychotherapist</i>
Department / location:	To be agreed
Report to:	Level 3 Clinical Leads
Main purpose of the job:	
<p>To provide senior leadership and coordination for the PAIRS (Parent-Infant Relationship Service). The postholder will deliver Level 3 psychological interventions and/or Parent-Infant Psychotherapy for families experiencing severe or complex relationship difficulties. Beyond direct clinical work, this role involves leading the development of care pathways, referral management, and development of policies and procedures to ensure effective functioning and trauma-informed, person-centered care aligned with the THRIVE model.</p>	
Key tasks and responsibilities:	
<p>Clinical Excellence & Specialist Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Specialist Assessment: Carry out highly specialist dyadic/systemic assessments, risk assessments, and formulations for parents and infants with complex attachment or bonding difficulties. .</p> <p>Intervention Delivery: Develop treatment plans and deliver Level 3 psychological/psychotherapy interventions (e.g., Parent-Infant Psychotherapy) and specialist modalities such as video feedback. Delivery of Level 2 interventions where indicated.</p> <p>Complex Case Management: Manage a caseload of families within which the parent(s)/ caregiver(s) may be experiencing mental health difficulties, adapting interventions to meet diverse cultural and linguistic needs, including working with interpreters.</p> <p>Evidence-Based Practice: Utilise clinical screening tools (MORS-SF, PHQ9, GAD7, GBO) and current theory/research to track progress.</p> 	

Leadership & Service Development

- **Strategic Coordination:** Deliver co-leadership and coordination of PAIRS, developing care pathways and referral management systems to optimise service flow.
- **Policy Development:** Liaise with senior clinical colleagues to develop, review, and implement operational policies and procedures.
- **Innovation:** Identify areas for service improvement and propose changes to practices; lead service user engagement and co-production aims to integrate feedback into clinical planning.
- **Governance:** Exercise delegated responsibility for managing psychological resources and ensuring systematic governance of clinical practice within the team.

Supervision, Training & Consultancy

- **Clinical Supervision:** Provide highly specialised clinical supervision to junior qualified/unqualified staff (for instance psychology assistant or trainee)
- **Doctoral Placements:** Act as a service supervisor for specialist clinical placements for a doctoral trainee (Child Psychotherapist/Clinical Psychologist in training)
- **External Consultation:** Provide formal and informal specialist advice and consultation to midwives, health visitors, GPs, and other external agencies.
- **Training** To offer specialist infant mental health training to key stakeholders

Research, Audit & Dissemination

- **Audit & Evaluation:** Initiate and supervise clinical audits and service-related evaluations to monitor efficacy and impact.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Disseminate service evaluation findings through professional presentations and publications to contribute to the wider field of perinatal and infant mental health.
- **Professional Development:** Maintain and develop expertise in professional training and clinical supervision through continuous professional development (CPD).

Measurable outputs:

- **Clinical Outcomes:** Utilise clinical screening tools and current theory/research to track progress.
- **Caseload Management:** Effectively manage a balanced caseload while minimising 'Did Not Attend' (DNA) rates.
- **Reporting:** Produce high-quality, contemporaneous electronic records and professional reports to specified deadlines.

Practical requirements:

- Place of work will be the Canterbury or Greenwich Real Group office
- Attend relevant meetings with Directors, colleagues and external validating partners
- Attend team meetings
- Core hours - 9am-5pm Monday-Friday taking a 30 minute unpaid break if working for a continuous period of more than 6 hours. These may be changed

from time to time according to the needs of the service / service users.

Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** Doctoral level Clinical/Counselling Psychologist/Child Psychotherapist (or equivalent) or fully qualified Parent Infant Psychotherapist
- **Registration:** Current HCPC registration as a Psychologist or registration with BPC/ACP/UKCP as a Psychotherapist.
- **Experience:** At least 4 years post-qualification experience in the NHS or equivalent, with experience in infant mental health and an understanding of perinatal presentations. Additional training in infant mental health or parent infant interventions is desirable.
- **Skills:**
 - Skilled in the use of complex methods of psychological assessment and intervention with families with children under 2 years of age and management frequently requiring sustained and intense concentration.
 - Well developed IT skills and report writing skills
 - Skills in providing teaching and training to professional groups
- **Communication:**
 - When delivering services the ability to communicate effectively in a highly emotive, antagonistic or hostile atmosphere and to overcome barriers to acceptance/psychological resistance to potentially threatening information
 - Ability to work effectively and supportively in a multi-disciplinary team.
- **Knowledge:**
 - Knowledge of contemporary legislation relating to the delivery of mental health and psychological services and its implications for both clinical practice and professional management with families with children under 2 years of age and in parent infant mental health.
 - Knowledge of professional issues in psychology/psychotherapy and psychological therapies with children under 2 years of age and in parent infant mental health.
 - Knowledge and experience of the application of clinical governance and risk management policies and procedures for the maintenance and improvement of psychological services.

The above job description is a guide to the work you may be required to undertake but does not form part of your contract of employment and may change from time to time to reflect changing circumstances.

Date: