**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job title** | **Children and Young People’s Mental Health Practitioner** |
| **Reports to** | Therapeutic and Wellbeing Service Manager (Children & Young People) |
| **Responsible for** | 1. Providing initial consultation and crisis assessment of children and young people to gain a clear understanding of their presenting needs and to identify the best form of support. 2. Facilitate brief solution focused interventions - providing care and crisis support for young people and their families. |
| **Salary** | Grade 3: £25,165 - £29,654 per annum FTE based on 37 hours per week |
| **Contract** | Permanent |
| **Hours** | 30 hours per week to be worked flexibly to meet the requirements of the service. Including a Saturday.  We offer a range of flexible working arrangements, including hybrid working, condensed or part-time hours, job share and other flexible working arrangements. We encourage our people to work in whichever way helps them to perform at their best. |
| **Work base** | Working across Stockport in a variety of locations including: schools, community venues, within children and young people’s homes, online and at the Safe Zones venue. |
| **Checks** | Enhanced DBS Check required and professional references covering at least the last two years |

**Service Overview**

TLC: Talk, Listen, Change is a dynamic, leading relationships charity based in

Greater Manchester. Thanks to new funding, our services have grown, and we are looking to appoint a CYP Mental Health Practitioner for our new Safe Zones NHS community CYP Project.

We provide a range of therapeutic interventions to children and young people aged 0-17 years and their families.

Our projects aim to give people a safe and confidential place to speak openly, find healthy ways to manage their emotions and empower them to make positive changes to their lives.

**The role**

The CYP Mental Health Practitioner will support children and young people whose mental health is significantly impacting the way they are feeling and living their lives.

By exploring and understanding the presenting needs of children and young people, you will use your knowledge of therapeutic support to provide effective emotional wellbeing support.

By providing care and crisis support for young people and their families you will provide assessment, and solution focused interventions combining de-escalation, de-stress management, resilience building, and, integrated emotional wellbeing and mental health support.

We aim to be an inclusive and supportive employer and want to make our recruitment processes accessible to everyone. If there is any way that we can support you to be the best you can be, please let us know.

**Main tasks and responsibilities:**

* Act as a single point of contact for referrals into our service, liaising with referrers regularly and processing referral speedily and effectively.
* Conduct initial assessments with children and young people and their families to gain a clear understanding of the presenting needs and to identify the best form of support.
* Ensure that risk levels for each child and young person are clearly understood and recorded, contacting referrers, families and other service providers for context where necessary.
* Follow TLC’s Safeguarding Process to ensure identified risk is managed safely, appropriately and with the needs of the child or young person as the priority.
* Ensure that all referrals are processed in line with TLC’s children and young people’s referral acceptance process.
* Work closely with the referrers to ensure that the eligibility criteria (both clinical and practical) for the service are clearly understood and communicated to families and young people themselves.
* Respond to all enquiries within agreed timescales in a sensitive manner and with full regard to equality and diversity.
* Where our service is not best placed to support the child or young person, discuss and provide alternative therapeutic options for the referrer or family to consider.
* Formulate, implement and deliver intervention plans with young people and partners.
* Provide advice and guidance and signposting to other relevant support services
* Support the Therapeutic manager (CYP) to develop additional resources and materials and play an integral role in designing and implementing our new wellbeing offer.
* Attend training and team meetings, as required.
* Acknowledge all feedback and complaints and ensure they are all dealt with as a priority in line with TLC’s Complaints Policy and Procedure.
* Ensure individual key performance indicators are met and contribute to the delivery of service key performance indicators.
* To comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (and any re-enactments of these) when handling information concerning the Company’s employees and clients.
* Representing the service, as required at meetings.
* Completing reports for refers and other agencies as necessary.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| **ATTRIBUTES** | **ESSENTIAL** | **DESIRABLE** | | **IDENTIFIED** |
| **EDUCATION**  **TRAINING**  **KNOWLEDGE** | A relevant professional qualification in counselling, therapy, youth work, social work etc or 3 years professional experience of working with young people.  Experience of assessing the needs of young people from diverse backgrounds.  Experience of supporting young people who are distressed and need support to remain safe and reduce risky behaviours and thoughts.  Experience of working alongside young people to plan, develop and evaluate support plans, using young person centred approaches.  Experience of working closely with a variety of multidisciplinary professionals across agencies and sectors.  Understand the needs of young people including awareness of issues of diversity and social and cultural context of their lives.  Comprehensive safeguarding and child protection knowledge. Good working knowledge of using MS Office to a competent level within an office environment, especially MS Word, Excel and Outlook. |  | Application form and Interview | |
| **SKILLS AND**  **ABILITIES** | Experience of delivering 121 support and group sessions.  Flexibility to adapt your delivery of therapeutic interventions to different settings, ages, developmental stages and presenting needs.  The ability to safety work within your own competency levels and recognise when an alternative intervention or referral may be required.  The ability to manage professional relationships e.g. with statutory services, other agencies, and educational settings.  Ability to listen to and work with emotional and potentially distressing material.   Ability to communicate clearly with people at all levels (excellent telephone skills, written and verbal communication)  Attention to detail and an ability to manage accurate recording and reporting of information.  Proven ability to form and maintain good working relationships with colleagues.  Ability to plan and prioritise your own workload.  Ability to use initiative to think through problems to find solutions and know when to seek help or advice from others. |  | Application form and Interview | |