



Job Description

Mental Health Practitioner

Grade: NHS Band 6
Hours: 37 hours
Responsible to: The Liaison and Diversion Manager
Employing body: Touchstone Board of Trustees
Location: Working across Wakefield community

This service will operate over 7 days from 07.00 to 22.00. Practitioners will be required to work in a shift pattern to cover the service post which may include some weekend and evening work.

Fixed term until 31 March 2018,

PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE POST

- To contribute to the development of the Wakefield Liaison and Diversion team by working in partnership with other agencies to reduce health inequalities within a specific targeted group, initially across the Wakefield District, and other areas of West Yorkshire going forward
- To make referrals to the appropriate services, encourage and support young people and vulnerable adults to access mainstream services and voluntary groups so that health outcomes may be improved
- To contribute to community safety and crime reduction strategies by working in partnership with other criminal justice agencies to achieve a reduction in offending and re-offending.
- To promote the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults in the Wakefield District and other areas as required. To promote their capacity for change and social inclusion. To deliver and review interventions within a framework informed by research evidence and best practice guidance, which is underpinned by principles of anti-discriminatory practice.
- To positively engage the people of Wakefield and Leeds (in particular) at risk of social exclusion and their families, enabling their participation in the planning, delivery and review of services.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To undertake assessments and reports of vulnerable people who have been detained in the criminal justice system, especially the courts and police custody.
- To present detailed professional reports and assessments to relevant decision makers, such as Magistrates, to enable informed decision to be made.
- To undertake planned interventions in line with the risk and needs identified from assessments.
- To undertake line management and supervision of up to 4 Support Workers (Band 5).
- To share relevant information to assist and inform the Police and Crown Prosecution Service decision making with regards to charge.
- To reduce crime through early identification of risk, leading to a swift and effective health and criminal justice response.
- To improve collaboration and decision making at the point of arrest, resulting in interventions which are more targeted and proportionate.
- To work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that people who offend or at risk of offending have their individual needs met.
- To contribute to the reduction of anti-social behaviour.
- To contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the work of the project.
- To fully use the electronic case management system to record all assessment, planning and interventions.
- To complete clear referrals to a range of support services.
- To share information about vulnerable people with other agencies to ensure risk is managed effectively and vulnerable people are safeguarded.
- To maintain accurate and up to date case records using a computerised care management system and to contribute to management information systems, project monitoring and quality assurance systems.
- Identify risk and share relevant information across Police, CPS, IOM,

PPO and YOT on more serious/persistent offenders, in accordance with data protection regulations.

- To reduce the number of people who are vulnerable to harm from others by identifying issues of safeguarding and making appropriate referrals.
- To meet responsibilities under Safeguarding and Health and Safety at work guidance and legislation.
- To receive supervision from the Liaison and Diversion Manager or their nominee, at least monthly or as required

GENERAL

- To work at all times as part of a team. This includes working with other staff, attending team and staff meetings and developing a teamwork approach to all aspects of the organisation's work.
- To maintain records as required by the Manager and in line with policy / procedure.
- To work flexibly in accordance with the needs of the service, including undertaking out of hours and weekend work as required.
- To be responsible for personal learning and development where appropriate and undertake training, both mandatory and optional, to increase knowledge, skills and awareness.
- To be inducted, supervised, performance monitored and appraised in line with the organisation's performance management policies and procedures.
- To provide monitoring information and reports for as requested by the Liaison and Diversion Manager, and to attend meetings as necessary.
- To supervise volunteers, students, work placements as required, including supporting them to carry out tasks.
- To assist in the further development of the organisation/service in conjunction with the Liaison and Diversion Team, and other agencies and partners as requested.
- To provide information about the service to people/agencies interested in the organisation's work.
- To be aware of and employ the general practices of Touchstone's Health & Safety policies and ensure these are adhered to at all times.
- To implement relevant policies and practices and comply with the vision, values and aims of the organisation at all times.

- To be committed to the organisation's Equal Opportunities policy and to promote this among staff, volunteers, peers, partners and service users..
- To ensure information is dealt with in accordance with policies on Confidentiality, Communications, Internet, Email and Telecommunications and steps are taken to ensure that confidential information is secure.
- To contribute to partnership activities as required / appropriate.
- To undertake any other duties as directed by the Liaison and Diversion Manager commensurate with the level of the post.

PROFESSIONAL

- Ensure the maintenance of standards of practice according to the employer and any regulating, professional and accrediting bodies, and keep up to date on new recommendations/guidelines set by the Department of Health (e.g. NHS plan, National Service Framework, National Institute for Clinical Excellence).
- Ensure that client confidentiality is protected at all times.
- Be aware of, and keep up to date with advances in the spheres of mental health.
- Ensure clear professional objectives are identified, discussed and reviewed with senior clinicians on a regular basis as part of continuing professional development (CPD).
- Attend clinical/managerial supervision on a regular basis as agreed with Manager.
- Keep up to date all records in relation to continual professional development and ensure personal development plan maintains up to date specialist knowledge of latest theoretical and service delivery models/developments.
- Attend relevant conferences / workshops in line with identified service and professional objectives.
- Participate in service improvement by highlighting issues and implementing changes in practice.
- Promote and maintain links with clinical staff to help co-ordinate the provision of an effective mental health service.