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Job description

**JOB TITLE: Psychological Therapist –Separated Children (Maternity Cover)**

**(From 01st Jan 2025 to 30th May 2025)**

**TEAM: My View**

**GROUP: Youth Services Directorate**

**LOCATION:**  **London - Hybrid (Stratford )**

**REPORTS TO: My View Team Manager**

**GRADE: 6**

**HOURS: Part Time (14 hours) 2 days / 0.4FT**

**SALARY : £33,024 (Regional) - £38,166 (London) Pro-Rota ,**

The Refugee Council supports separated asylum-seeking children across the UK.

My View Project at Therapeutic Services offers specialist mental health support for separated asylum-seeking children and young people. The project provides one-to-one therapeutic intervention and group therapy to individuals presenting with mental wellbeing needs. The project has adapted a psychosocial perspective using our Therapeutic Services Care Model to address the identified needs of clients using a holistic approach.

The purpose of this post is to provide therapeutic intervention to separated children who have often been through traumatic experiences, including being trafficked, abused and having witnessed horrific events, as a result of upheaval in their country of origin and along their journey to survival. Many have experienced overwhelming loss and separation from family and loved ones resulting in mental distress; others display symptoms of PTSD and may become isolated and anxious. This can lead to related behavioural issues and disruption in their education when their mental health needs the value of teamwork are not met. My View Project uses a multidisciplinary approach. This will allow therapist to engage with separated children, either individually or within a group. The therapist will adapt their therapeutic approach in response to what the child may communicate through verbal disclosure or behavioural issues. The therapist will maintain a close partnership with the foster family/accommodation provider, social worker, school and/or other key agencies in the separated child’s life, and, where appropriate, signpost them to other specialist services.

Our therapists deliver a holistic psychological assessment to children and young people and offer up to 12 sessions of therapeutic support. This will be delivered, alongside casework support delivered by a Refugee Council caseworker who can support clients with any issues that arise such as age assessment, housing, access to healthcare, benefits, school enrolment etc.

Therapists are expected to see 5 clients per day and each has 1 day for administration and follow up work (attending meetings and writing notes). Therapists are well supported and receive ongoing CPD; we encourage an atmosphere of self and team care in order to facilitate peer support. Our hybrid model offers choice to our clients, many of whom prefer online therapy and some would like to be seen face to face.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Therefore, all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as ‘spent’, must be declared at the application stage. An offer of employment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. Repeat checks are initiated every two years.

**Purpose of the Job:**

* To provide a holistic assessment and up to 12-week therapeutic intervention to separated asylum seeking children, and young people.
* To offer a flexible model of care that may include offering assessments and/or therapy online and face to face.
* To liaise with Refugee Council’s caseworkers and Children Triage Coordinator, educational and social care services as appropriate to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people being supported by Refugee Council.
* To ensure the safeguarding of separated asylum-seeking children is prioritised by all stakeholders.
* You are mainly recruited to work with clients in Yorkshire & Humberside area , however in special circumstances you might be asked to see clients in other areas, but this will be online , as you are expected to live in Yorkshire & Humberside area.

**Main Duties & Responsibilities**

1. To deliver specialist, culturally sensitive one-to-one and group therapy (on site/in person or telephone/online) to best meet specific client needs, using the Refugee Council Therapeutic Care Model and Framework
2. To work collaboratively with the Refugee Council’s Children’s Section and wider stakeholders such as social services, legal services, department of education, the health service and mainstream mental health agencies to ensure holistic client support.
3. To lead on establishing strong relationships with partners and stakeholders, to ensure clients are able to access appropriate support networks and vital specialist services, in particular those who have acute/complex needs.
4. To take responsibility for soliciting appropriate referral by engaging with local statutory agencies, community groups and project partners.
5. To undertake risk assessments for all clients, and maintain a record of all therapeutic work undertaken on the Refugee Council client database.
6. To meet client targets and collect accurate data for funders and management team.
7. To write clear counselling reports, support letters and other documentation to the standard required by the Refugee Council.
8. To take responsibility for managing own caseload, providing a responsive service and maintaining appropriate records using the Refugee Council database, as well as project monitoring, evaluation & reporting forms, writing concise case notes in a timely manner in accordance to RC requirements.
9. To understand and implement the project objectives and outcomes, ensure regular project monitoring and to take responsibility for collating client feedback in a timely fashion.
10. To work effectively with interpreters.
11. To be able to work under pressures and manage stress.
12. To promote teamwork, be flexible and have the capacity to adjust to short-term change.
13. To be responsible for own petty cash float and distribution of client allowances, such as travel money.
14. To deliver and participate in training and workshops on the needs of service users and the project outcomes required by the lead partner and funder.
15. To maintain professional ethical boundaries, impartiality and confidentiality at all times.
16. To follow good practice guidelines and procedures including the attendance of and participation in intake/referral meetings, team meetings, regular supervision and clinical supervision sessions.
17. To carry out all work with regard to the Refugee Council’s organisational policies and procedures.
18. To keep abreast of developments in theory and research and to undertake continuing professional development (CPD).

Additional Information

**Health & Safety**

The post holder is responsible for:

Cooperating with the Refugee Council in delivering all legal responsibilities in respect of your own and your colleagues, volunteers, clients and others health and safety whilst at work.

Becoming familiar with the Refugee Council’s Health & Safety Policy and procedures including evacuation procedures at your workplace.

Carrying out risk assessments of your own work and especially of your own workstation to ensure that you do not expose yourself or others to unnecessary risk.

**Flexibility**

This is a demanding job, hence to deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed and the post-holder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to above. Such duties will, however, fall within the scope of the job, at the appropriate grade. The job description will be subject to periodic review with the post-holder to ensure it accurately reflects the duties of the job.

**Equal Opportunities Statement**

As part of its recruitment policy, the Refugee Council intends to ensure that no prospective or actual employee is discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, employment status, class, disability, age, religious belief or political persuasion, or is disadvantaged by any condition or requirement which is not demonstrably justifiable.

**Working at the Refugee Council**

A commitment to the work of the Refugee Council.

**Personal Effectiveness**

With the support of their manager the post-holder will need to effectively manage their own workload and medium- and long-term plans and objectives.

**Flexible Working**

This job may involve a mixture of working remotely as well as on site in person. This has to be agreed with your line manager.

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Person Specification

**JOB TITLE: Psychological Therapist – Separated Children**

***Qualifications***

**Essential**

1. Professional qualification in a recognised psychological therapy or counselling.
2. Registration with a counselling & psychotherapy regulatory body or association e.g. HCPC, BACP, UKCP etc.
3. Employment is subject to a satisfactory DBS check and satisfactory references

***Experience***

**Essential**

1. Awareness of psychological issues related to :
   1. Forced migration
   2. Child development and the transition from childhood to adolescence to adulthood
2. Post-qualifying experience of supporting diverse populations with complex needs

Knowledge, skills and abilities

***Essential***

1. Understanding, ability and psychological resilience to work with individuals in crisis and acute states of distress or disturbance and maintain a sensitive and professional attitude.
2. Understanding of the Refugee Experience, and the needs of refugee clients, in particular separated children, who have experienced trauma, loss and separation.
3. Ability to carry out holistic psychological and social and clinical assessments to gain an understanding of client needs for assistance in these areas and to make appropriate referrals.
4. Therapeutic skills in working and building trusting relationships with refugee clients experiencing a range of psychological issues including: PTSD, loss, guilt, shame, depression, pain, displacement
5. This is a busy and demanding job . It requires ability to assess and work with the full range of risk affecting refugee clients, including suicide/self-harm etc.
6. Sensitivity to working in a multi-cultural environment and an understanding of the ways in which views about mental health are culturally specific.
7. Ability to employ a range of clinical approaches to groups and individual, children and young people
8. Ability to work within a multi-disciplinary system with colleagues from a range of clinical and other professional backgrounds.
9. Good organisational skills and caseload management, record keeping and the ability to act on own initiative when appropriate.
10. Good report writing skills sufficient to be able to write counselling/therapy reports including reporting on outcomes and meeting deadlines.
11. Excellent verbal communication skills and ability to deliver specialist training sessions and workshops to a variety of audiences.
12. Experience of working under stress and supporting peers.
13. Ability to train and offer peer support to other clinicians and staff within the organisation.
14. A strong personal commitment to equal opportunities both in terms of policy and practical application

***Desirable***

1. Qualification or experience with a specialism in trauma-informed therapies or Refugee Care
2. Spoken competence in one or more priority refugee languages

**This post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. Repeat checks are initiated every two years.**

**28/11/2024**