

Job Description

Job Title:	Clinical/Forensic/Counselling Psychologist or Psychological Therapist
Accountable to:	Head of Healthcare
Professionally Accountable to:	National Head of Psychology / Medical Director Mental Health

Practice Plus Group's mission is **Access to Excellence**. Our core values are;

- we treat patients and each other as we would like to be treated
- we act with integrity
- we embrace diversity
- we strive to do things better together

Patients can only access excellence if we commit to living our values in everything we do when we're at work.



We believe in putting the patient first, regardless of the environment or their history. The prison population is one of the most vulnerable and challenged patient groups in society and the delivery of their health care is conducted within often difficult and demanding environments.

The role

This post requires an experienced qualified psychologist or psychological therapist with knowledge and experience of complex mental health and forensic needs to support the development and embedding of a trauma-informed mental health service model within HMP Thameside. Research shows that males coming into prison have multiple unmet social, emotional and mental health needs and high-risk behaviours that have persisted over time. Although they may meet the diagnostic criteria for multiple disorders, their needs and risks can be best understood as arising within the context of traumatic life events and disrupted relationships, often beginning in childhood. These needs and risks can best be supported by using a psychologically informed approach to support the mental health team and the discipline staff in their day-to-day work with the residents. Supporting these relationships and upskilling frontline professionals in their daily interactions will enable the residents to acquire the skills necessary to manage their own emotions and behaviour more effectively. This approach focuses on supporting both mental health and discipline staff in working

collaboratively through developing awareness of trauma processes and how this impacts both residents and professionals interpersonally as well as on how this contributes to the maintenance of maladaptive and/or risky behaviours. This approach does not preclude the use of specialised interventions, or existing processes and roles within the current mental care health pathway, but integrates these into a more comprehensive pathway that also includes the discipline staff and other professional groups within the different settings.

The role focuses on offering support to the integrated mental health team in the form of training, reflective practice/ clinical supervision, case consultations & clinical supervision of Assistant Psychologists.

The role also includes core duties within the mental health team such as undertaking psychological assessments, supporting complex multi-disciplinary formulations and delivering psychological interventions for cases of great complexity. To support the current psychological therapies plan and assist the integrated mental health team in the overall development of the availability of evidence based therapies.

The role involves the delivery and oversight of both 1:1 and group-intervention as part of the Trauma Informed 'Making Sense' Programme.

To deliver teaching and training to healthcare staff and prison staff as required.

To contribute to the development of audit, service evaluation and research profile as appropriate

You will also;

Provide expert clinical advice and outstanding evidence based care, listening and acting on patient feedback so that care is personalised and informed by what matters to them. You will also provide supervision of the day to day delivery of mental health therapies and lead on development of clinical practice and the implementation of the mental health pathway.

Deliver non-judgemental care by leading the team to deliver care that is safe, high quality, patient centred whilst meeting CQC requirements following our policies, procedures and always considering safeguarding.

Inspire excellence in your colleagues by pro-actively leading and motivating the team recognising that our workforce is our most valuable asset. You will provide professional leadership to ensure we provide a service that people can trust, feel safe within and feel proud of.

Promote best practice, clinical supervision, evidence based care and continuous quality improvement embedding a culture of reflection and shared learning.

Share knowledge, skills and expertise to ensure safe care and support your clinical and non-clinical colleagues to do a great job



About you

- Entry-level qualification in applied psychological therapy/mental health/social welfare profession or equivalent and demonstrable practice in this field (i.e., professional Doctorate, or combination of MSc plus PG Diploma level/supervised practice/additional training) that has been accepted for the purposes of professional registration.
- Additional training beyond entry-level qualification in a specialised area of psychological practice (through formal post-qualification training (PG Diploma or equivalent), OR a combination of specialist short courses and/an evidenced portfolio of supervised practice–based learning in a specialist area of clinical psychological therapy practice, assessed by a registered body and/or an experienced clinical supervisor to be of equal level to a Postgraduate Diploma or higher.
- Registered with professional body or regulatory body as appropriate to psychological therapy discipline i.e., HCPC/UKCP/BACP/BABCP.
- Evidence of continuing professional development as required by the professional body.
- Proven post-qualification professional experience in Clinical/ Forensic Psychology
- Experience working with Forensic Mental Health patients
- Experience working with psychological Trauma
- Excellent communication skills
- Team Player



Additional information

Disclosure and Barring Service - a Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure at the enhanced level is required for this role. A risk assessment will be undertaken if necessary.

Prison Vetting - a HMPPS (Her Majesties Prison and Probation Service) clearance is required for this role in accordance with Ministry of Justice, plus local prison vetting.

Education and Training - continuing professional development is encouraged and an annual appraisal system is in place to discuss ongoing objectives and support revalidation.