

Emotional Wellbeing Play and Youth Worker

Job Description and Personal Specification

Contract Type: Full time, fixed term for 12 months

Location: Based at Rose Bowl youth hub and suitable community locations in Islington

Hours: 38

Practical requirements: a flexible approach to working round the needs of children and young people with before / after-school or evening work required

Reports to: Senior Youth Work Manager Rose Bowl and Emotional Wellbeing Manager

Job description

What is the overall purpose of the role?

A combination of specialist wellbeing work and universal play and youth work delivery with a 60:40 time split. Promoting the emotional well-being of children and young people as they await assessment for Autism Spectrum Conditions or following recent diagnosis through 1:1 support and guidance. Co-ordinating specific projects to promote the personal, educational, creative and social development of children and young people, helping them reach their full potential. This role will provide a safe and supportive environment where children and young people will:

- become motivated, positive and resilient
- develop self-help skills to get themselves to where they think they should be
- gain the confidence to experiment, make mistakes and thrive
- treat themselves and others with kindness and respect

Key activities and responsibilities

- Hold a caseload 10 - 17-year-olds who are waiting for an autism assessment and / or support via the CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Pathway and / or are on Islington's Dynamic Support Register
 - Having conversations with children and young people, identifying issues affecting them and giving information and guidance about services to help with their emotional needs
 - Develop personal plans to address emotionally based school avoidance and barriers to engagement with education, including supporting the young person, family and school to implement adjustments and self-management strategies
 - Acting as an advocate for the child or young person
 - Establish connections to both universal and targeted community services to improve life satisfaction, happiness using the social prescribing model
 - Coordinate with professionals around the young person and family, for example school staff, CAMHS clinicians, Children's Services, and the Educational Psychology Service
 - Efficiently managing the workload and ensuring that all contact work and outcomes are documented, evaluated and that data is inputted into a case management system
 - Writing and contributing to evaluation reports with CAMHS partners and Islington's commissioners
 - Working as part of the hub's play and youth work team to integrate the new service
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- Developing and maintaining strong knowledge and relationships across the network of local children and young people’s social, emotional, and mental health providers and those delivering sports, physical activities, arts, culture and SEND targeted activities.
- Developing and facilitating group support work opportunities for children and young people with similar or complementary needs and contributing to the work in the borough towards improving services for this group.
- Welcoming children and young people into the buildings, ensuring everything is running smoothly and supporting young people engaging with the activities
- Delivering a drop-in session for example organising games, positive activities and conversations, taking accountability for safe working within the play and youth sessions
- Assisting in the management and delivery of outreach activities
- Stay informed on legislation, local and national issues, and best practice
- Ensuring child protection procedures are followed and that the safeguarding of young people is paramount in a complex multi-agency environment.
- Carry out all duties in accordance with Isledon Arts’ policies on Health and Safety, Child Protection and Data Protection, and within relevant legislation.
- Any other duties appropriate to the post

Person Specification

1 You are

- 1.1 Positive and self-driven, able to work both independently and as part of a team
- 1.2 Flexible in your approach (this is a pilot project and will be developed as we learn)
- 1.3 Resilient, able to handle the responsibility that dealing with the emotional well-being of vulnerable children and young people can bring

2 Education, qualifications, or experience

- 2.1 Experience of play and / or youth work and delivering high quality services in an inner-city environment
- 2.2 Experience of case work with young people who need emotional and well-being support
- 2.3 Experience of supporting young people with autism/ADHD and learning difficulties in their social and emotional development
- 2.4 Experience of partnership working in service delivery, especially with clinical and/or statutory services
- 2.5 Formal training in Trauma, Mental Health Awareness and a Youth Mental Health First Aid Certificate are desirable

3 Knowledge, skills and abilities

- 3.1 Excellent communication skills with the ability and confidence to establish positive relationships with children and young people (and their families) and motivate them to participate in support services and creative and healthy activities
- 3.2 Caseload management skills to prioritise effectively and multi-task in a sometimes busy and stressful environment
- 3.3 Politically and creatively aware and 'plugged in' to issues affecting young people today with an understanding of the role of social media in young people's emotional lives
- 3.4 Positive about embracing challenge and change, open to experimenting, new ideas, reflective practice and working with other organisations in a spirit of partnership
- 3.5 Ability to represent Isledon and give presentations at meetings and stakeholder events
- 3.6 Ability to think strategically using field, desk and academic research to inform views
- 3.7 Strong literacy skills with the ability to write reports and evaluations
- 3.8 Understanding and appreciation of the importance of monitoring and evaluation
- 3.9 A believer in strongly supportive environments, sharing and being open with colleagues
- 3.10 Ability to operate within professional boundaries when developing and maintaining relationships with young people and their families
- 3.11 A working understanding of equality and diversity with the ability to challenge discriminatory behaviour
- 3.12 Excellent organisational and administration skills with proficiency in Microsoft Office

More information about this role

There are two elements to this role. The first will be closely aligned with Isledon's Emotional Wellbeing Service as part of a new project pilot. The pilot will support 12 young people at any one time aged between 10 and 17. These young people will either be:

- awaiting assessment for Autism Spectrum Condition or support following diagnosis from the Islington CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Pathway; or
- on the Dynamic Support Register (young people with either a learning disability and / or autism, who due to behaviours that challenge are at risk of hospital admission)
- and are experiencing specific difficulties around emotionally based school avoidance or are at risk of permanent exclusion/school placement breakdown.

These young people are also generally at risk of poorer wellbeing outcomes and a lack of engagement with the available positive social, creative, sporting and community opportunities, which can lead to escalation into crisis.

The Emotional Wellbeing Worker will provide 1:1 support to the young people to address their emerging needs as they await assessment, including psychoeducation, self-management

strategies and support to access local provision and services. This element of the role will constitute for 60% of the role (24 hours per week).

The second element of the role will be play and youth work delivery at Rose Bowl youth hub. This will be on Thursdays and Fridays. You will work alongside play and youth team colleagues to deliver open access sessions for young people aged 8 – 24 years. Sessions on Thursday and Fridays commence at 2pm with the younger cohort of children until 6pm, older young people will attend youth work sessions from 6.30–9pm. Times will vary during school holidays.

This role would be suitable for

- Play and / or youth workers with experience of working with children with SEND
- Social Prescribing Workers with experience of working with children and / or young people with autism