

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Occupational Therapist		
Directorate			
Reporting to	Advanced Practitioner		
Grade	10		
Evaluation ref:	AG0649	Job ref:	Family C&F
Role purpose			
<p>The role of the Occupational Therapist is to provide a comprehensive service to service users, promoting independence and meeting individual needs in all activities of daily living. This involves working in accordance with professional standards, conducting ongoing assessments, managing a caseload, and ensuring appropriate protection and support for service users.</p> <p>The Occupational Therapist will collaborate with various professionals and agencies to develop and implement care plans, provide necessary aids and adaptations, and promote the well-being and independence of individuals</p>			
Responsibilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibility of the Children's Occupational Therapy Team is to promote and ensure the safety, well-being and learning of children and young people. This includes services to "Children in Need" including children with disabilities, children subject to Child Protection Plans, Children "Looked After" and consultancy across Early Help Services. • Occupational Therapists will work in accordance with professional standards (as set by the HCPC and the College of Occupational Therapists) to provide a comprehensive Occupational Therapy service to users and carers to meet the needs of the individual and promote independence in accordance with current relevant legislation in all activities of daily living enabling them to identify their priorities and goals in order to make realistic plans for their future. • Make ongoing assessments of allocated cases to reflect individual circumstances including assessments of safety in carrying out their activities of daily living. • Responsible for a caseload of varying complexity, commensurate with ability and experience. • Through assessment ensure appropriate protection to service users and carers, identifying the need for risk assessment as appropriate. • Conduct statutory reviews and ensure compliance with appropriate legislation, policy and procedures. • Assess occupational therapy needs of individuals within their own homes, educational and care environments, in consultation with other professionals. 			

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- Prepare and present reports as necessary to facilitate proper decisions being made in respect of service users.
- Provide information, written assessments, reports and statements to support other service professionals, managers and agencies in making decisions related to care.
- Maintain client records to a high standard in accordance with relevant legislation, policy and procedures.
- Contribute to a written statement of needs following assessment as required by the Disabled Persons (Services Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 and Children and Families Act 2014.
- Facilitate the provision of a needs-led service, working with providers within Children's Social Care, National Health Service and the independent and voluntary sectors in order to meet requirements.
- Plan and agree service responses, resources needs and support, developing realistic care plans to meet identified individual needs/circumstances. Provide appropriate aids to daily living and recommendation of grants and/or funding as appropriate and available.
- Develop, facilitate and maintain effective joint working relationships, with Health professionals and Voluntary agencies. Work with Health providers to support safe discharge home for children returning to the community.
- Contribute to multi-agency team working, case conferences and in team meetings. Advising other professionals relating to specific areas of expertise. Advising schools and care placements in relation to allocated children's individual needs.
- Promote a positive profile of services through close liaison with statutory and voluntary organisations relating to service provision and assist in the development of services to clients. Includes liaison with housing officers and agencies to assist in the process of rehousing for children with disabilities and their families.
- Establish appropriate professional relationships with service users, their families and other professionals to enable effective partnerships in the provision of services.
- To provide occupational therapy intervention, professional advice and making recommendations for adaptations. Review and monitor needs and equipment suitability in line with policy and procedures. Provide training on specialist equipment to families, schools and respite settings.
- Promote people's independence, equality, diversity and rights. To advise on appropriate methods for overcoming problems and to provide a range of information to service users about services available to them.
- Establish, sustain and disengage from relationships with service users, supporting their needs and those of families and carers appropriately.

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- Enable individuals, families and carers to address issues which affect their health and social well-being.
- Build upon existing knowledge and practice with research and training to develop individual skills and new approaches for improvement in service provision.
- To be familiar with IT systems relating to client information and ADL purchasing.
- Develop one's own knowledge and practice and contribute to the development of policy and practice.
- Participate in training and regular professional development programmes.

Other Elements and Specialised Areas:

- To meet regularly with your supervisor relating to problems, caseload, training needs and ensure appropriate professional development.
- Participating in office duty rotas, responding effectively to referrals and enquiries as required.
- Developing projects and new services to meet assessed needs of service users.
- Understand, uphold and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Impact

- It is an essential element of the job to build and maintain a range of close contacts and relationships with service users and other professional staff within the department.
- Frequent contacts with statutory bodies, public services, health professionals and voluntary agencies as an integral part of assessments and care provision.
- Frequent involvement in multi-agency and joint working arrangements.
- You will hold a caseload which relates to employed hours and will be of varying complexity.
- Purchasing of adaptations and equipment in accordance with policy and procedures.
- Supervision of work undertaken by other staff, such as Occupational Therapy Assistants, as required.
- Supervision of O.T. students on clinical placement. (Typically one student per O.T. at any time).
- Promote and participate in monthly formal peer support and ongoing informal support

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- Delegated authority to make purchases to agreed limits adhering to policy and procedures. Make day-to-day decisions in relation to care packages and plans in line with policies and guidelines.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable	
Knowledge			
Understanding of Social Care practice as defined by HCPC Guidelines and relevant legislation	x		
Knowledge of IT systems for effective data input, manipulation, and retrieval	x		
Experience			
Relevant multi-disciplinary Social Care experience within a multi-disciplinary team	X		
Evidence of partnership working with other agencies including Social Care Services, Health Services, Voluntary Agencies, and/or Education	X		
Supervisory experience		X	
A variety of experiences working with relevant client groups		x	
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications			
Degree in Occupational Therapy or equivalent	X		
Registration with Health Care Professions Council	X		
Willingness to study for higher-level qualifications	x		
Skills			
Ability to speak fluent English as stated in Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016)	X		
Demonstrates empathy, sensitivity, self-awareness, and acceptance of others	X		
Ability to prioritize workload, work with competing deadlines, and organize time effectively	X		
Self-reliant and resilient, able to respond positively to difficult situations	X		
Creative thinker		x	
Working Conditions			

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Working Arrangements

Somerset Council's dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position

Corporate Responsibilities

Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, organisational policy, and professional codes of conduct to uphold standards of best practise.

Deliver the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do, ensuring team members are also aware of their responsibilities and maintaining their understanding that Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: