



OASIS COMMUNITY HOUSING HOPE. NOT HOMELESSNESS.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Worker

Responsible to: Project Team Leader

Location: Oasis Community Housing, Southwark, working at properties across London Borough of Southwark

Salary: Salary Grade C: £24,150 per annum pro rata (FTE), plus London weighting of £4000 per annum pro rata (FTE).

The band goes up to £26,250 per annum, however, this is dependent on annual performance review

Hours: Part Time – 15 hours per week, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm with some flexibility to meet the requirements of the post

Benefits: Oasis Community Housing operates a contributory group personal pension plan and, if eligible, you will be automatically enrolled into the Oasis Trust pension scheme. Currently all staff in our pension scheme are required to contribute a minimum of 2%. The employer contribution is currently set at 7%.

Oasis Community Housing life assurance policy, is open to all staff who earn in excess of £6000 per annum.

25 days holiday per year, plus statutory holidays, increasing to 30 days per annum after 2 completed years' service

Job Purpose:

To support young people who are resident in our Southwark Service, including those who are care experienced, experiencing homeless or are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). To provide support to improve mental health and wellbeing, through one to one and group sessions. To broker access to statutory mental health services as needed. To develop networks to aid the whole staff team to provide support to young people to ensure positive mental health and wellbeing. To advocate on behalf of young people, as needed, with other services, in relation to mental health.

Organisation Context:

Oasis Community Housing is a Christian homelessness charity based in Gateshead. Working across North East England, South London, and Peterborough, our ambitious new strategy aims to widen our reach and amplify our impact for men, women and vulnerable families facing homelessness.

We help more than 1,000 people every year by providing housing, specialised support and, more fundamentally, a place where they feel they can belong.

Oasis Community Housing is part of the Oasis Charitable Trust group of charities, which has education and community development projects (UK and overseas) working to a common vision of creating communities in which everyone can thrive and reach their God-given potential.

We welcome applicants from all faiths or none however, we ask all that all employees understand and sympathise with the charity's Christian vision, ethos and culture. For some specified roles, it will be an occupational requirement that a practising Christian is needed and this will be clearly stated in the Job advert and in the Job description's qualifications section. This post does not carry an occupational requirement.

Oasis Community Housing is a growing charity, with its Central Office in Gateshead and projects in London and Peterborough. This post is based within our Southwark Service in London.

Project specific:

Southwark North Service is an accommodation-based service funded by Southwark Council to provide supported accommodation to young people experiencing homelessness. The main office of the project is No.3 Peckham with a number of satellite offices across the Borough. The service provides support, housing and resettlement services for Southwark young people who have the status of being looked after children or care leavers, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), or young people at risk of homelessness.

The service will support young people to maintain and develop skills to live more independently in order to safely and successfully leave the service, reducing homelessness and the risk of homelessness.

The primary age group is 16-21, however individuals are accepted up to the age of 25 on a case-by-case basis.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- To provide mental health and wellbeing support, advice and guidance to the project's residents
- To hold one to one support sessions with young people; supporting them to explore their mental health needs in a safe environment
- To lead group sessions with young people; exploring common mental health and wellbeing concerns, and providing proven self-management techniques as appropriate, including mindfulness, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, talking therapies, art therapy
- To build relationships with key local partners related to improving young people's mental health and wellbeing
- To develop links with local professional cross-sector and mental health and wellbeing services
- To develop a robust referral route into professional specialist services for young people who need additional support
- To provide access to mental health support to young people who are waiting to access statutory interventions
- To advocate on behalf of young people to partner agencies, especially as related to mental health and wellbeing; reducing the likelihood of mental health deterioration,

and reducing risks associated with missed appointments, or other issues such as addiction or behavioural concerns.

- To provide support to young people in their first language when required, using interpreters and adhering to good practice standards; reducing language barriers for those who need to discuss mental health needs and gain support
- To provide advice, information and guidance to staff team members on how to best support young people experiencing mental ill health.
- To maintain records needed to ensure excellent and consistent support provision; maintaining comprehensive case files, using the Inform data system, completing reports and assisting in the measurement of outcomes.
- To ensure safeguarding policies and procedures are adhered to in your practices, and that concerns are reported appropriately and expediently
- To attend regular supervision sessions with your line manager.
- To attend relevant training sessions as required by the role / your line manager.
- To undertake any other reasonable duties as requested
- To ensure all working practice and interactions are in line with organisational ethos and values

Personal Specification/Key Competencies:

Qualifications:

- Relevant Mental Health Qualification to NVQ Level 2 (Essential)
- Professional qualification in a related field (youth work, social work etc.) (Desirable)

Work Experience:

- Experience of supporting individuals on a one to one basis (Essential)
- Experience of facilitating group work and/or workshops (Essential)
- Experience of working in partnership with statutory/voluntary agencies (Essential)

Skills, Knowledge & Aptitude:

- Understanding of the need for impartiality and confidentiality (Essential)
- Ability to handle conflict (Essential)
- A mature and flexible approach; excellent personal emotional intelligence and self-awareness, with an ability to work calmly under pressure (Essential)
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written), including the ability to build effective working relationships with other organisations and work collaboratively with colleagues (Essential)

Competencies

- Be able to manage time effectively (Essential)
- Be consistent and inspiring and inspiring trust in others (Essential)
- Be able to develop effective working relationships and networks in difficult situations (Essential)
- Have and be able to maintain excellent professional boundaries (Essential)
- Be inclusive of people from all backgrounds and cultures (Essential)
- Able to be flexible in working arrangements (Essential)
- Be sensitive and diplomatic in difficult/emotional situations (Essential)
- Ability to work on own initiative (Essential)

- Have good listening skills (Essential)
- Emotionally resilient (Essential)

Motivation:

- Be passionate about ensuring excellent standards for the benefit of Service Users (Essential)
- Be passionate about working with the client group (Essential)
- Have a heart for people and believe that everyone has the potential to change their life for the better given the right support and circumstances (Essential)
- Have perseverance and never give up hope in those who use our services; instilling that hope into their daily lives (Essential)

Other:

- Ability to interact with people from a wide range of backgrounds (Essential)
- The post holder will be subject to an enhanced DBS check (Essential)

To be able to work in any Oasis Community Housing project as required