

JOB DESCRIPTION



Veterans Substance Misuse Nurse

1. JOB DETAILS

Job Title:	Veterans Substance Misuse Nurse
Department:	Operations
Band:	6
Hours:	Various
Reporting to:	Deputy Head of Operations

2. OVERALL PURPOSE

The Substance Misuse Nurses will offer a specialist substance misuse case management service to veterans and will enhance existing Combat Stress service provision.

Specialist Substance Misuse Nurses will provide a service that promotes best practice, that is evidence based and which is in line with requirements for good governance and that meets the required regulatory and professional standards.

The Substance Misuse Nurse will offer some psychoeducational and low-level support with coping skills and emotional regulation, but the main purpose of their role is one of assertive outreach and 'Case Management', where they will support the veteran during the stabilisation phase, in accessing the appropriate clinical support for their substance misuse. This will involve liaison with local substance misuse and wider healthcare and social services. The aim being that with the SMS Nurses support, the veteran will be able to engage with these services and reduce/stop their substance misuse, in order to improve their Health and Wellbeing and if necessary move on to another care pathway with in Combat Stress to address other mental health difficulties.

This may include Peer support or Relapse prevention pathways, or trauma focussed pathways. Where there is no identified mental health need after interventions from SMS Nurse, the veteran may be referred to local Recovery support services, to include mutual aid and Peer Support.

3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing specialist, comprehensive and accurate assessment including outcome measures to include AUDIT, DUDIT, SADQ, CIWA, CIWA-B in a timely manner

- Make recommendations and identify the veteran's substance misuse treatment needs in developing their integrated treatment plan.
- Providing brief interventions at time of assessment (WHO, 2001)
- Proactively assisting veterans to speedily access community based substance misuse services and recovery groups in order to access specialist, medical and/or clinical interventions and wider recovery focussed support, including mutual aid and non-veteran specific services and Peer Support
- Assertively outreaching those veterans at risk of disengaging from the service without completing treatment, therefore increasing retention rates and improving outcomes
- Formulating simple routes into Combat Stress mental health pathways via MDT meetings, negating the need for repeat assessment
- Offering advice, information, advocacy and support to people using substances accessing or seeking to access the service. this will include advice and interventions on harm reduction and generic health needs
- To attend and contribute to case reviews and attend multidisciplinary reviews for veterans with identified substance misuse issues
- Enable joint working, education and good public relations between Combat Stress and other services including GPs and Community Mental Health Teams, Criminal Justice services, raising awareness of the needs of veterans with substance misuse needs and reducing stigma
- Improve and enhance the overall treatment outcomes for veterans, by augmenting and complementing residential treatment programmes and providing interventions in the community allowing improved access to treatment.

Audit and Research

- To plan and participate in audit of clinical practice and assist with data collection for research.
- To implement audit and research findings to deliver evidence based practice.

Education and Training

- To undertake mandatory training and appropriate training identified through supervision and appraisal.
- To lead and participate in the development and delivery of training within the team and to other professionals and agencies.
- To identify own training and developmental needs and participate in a personal development plan to meet identified needs.
- To provide support, guidance and supervision to junior staff.
- To provide mentorship to students on placement.

Professional responsibilities

- To maintain registration with their registering body and follow their guidelines for conduct and professional practice.
- To participate in regular clinical professional supervision and appraisal as consistent with the requirements of the Organisation
- To maintain the confidentiality of all client data in line with Organisational policy and the Data Protection Act 1998.
- To represent the Charity in a professional manner at all times.

General Responsibilities

- To fully understand and adhere to the policies and procedures of the Charity.
- To be compliant with the administrative and clinical processes defined.
- To work in a flexible and responsive way to meet the changing needs of the service users and demands of the service.
- To promote a recovery focus throughout the veterans' treatment journey.
- To promote equality, diversity and the rights of the service users.
- To support partnership working.
- To follow safeguarding procedures to minimise risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults.
- To undertake any other duties at the request of the line manager which are commensurate with the role, including project work, internal rotation (as per contract) and absence cover.
- To contribute to the maintenance of a healthy and safe working environment by adhering to Health and Safety Organisational policies.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

All staff have a responsibility to manage risk within their sphere of responsibility. It is a statutory duty to take reasonable care of their own safety and the safety of others who may be affected by acts or omissions.

As an employee of Combat Stress you are required to be risk aware, readily able to identify risks faced by you and by Combat Stress in the course of your day-to-day employment. Where a new risk is identified it is to be reported through your line manager.

We reserve the right to ask you from time to time to undertake any other reasonable duties as required within this role.

Signature – Job Holder

Date

Signature – Line Manager

Date

Reviewed/created: Feb 2020