**Job Description**

**Job title:** Senior Art Therapist

**Directorate:** Clinical

**Location:** England South Hub

**Accountable to:** Principal Clinical Psychologist

**Accountable for:** NA

**Pay grade:** Band 7

**Type:**  As per contract

**Values Framework**

All staff are expected to know and understand the values of the organisation and uphold these values whilst at work.

* Together
* Focused
* Bold
* Personal

**General Overview of Role**

To provide an art therapy online and in-person, outpatient and residential service structured in terms of referral, assessment, formulation of art therapy intervention, treatment, review, and discharge. The post will involve attendance at senior staff meetings, such as the Therapeutics Group (TG) or Service Reference Group (SRG) when required, and promoting the art therapy service, for example through providing sponsor reports and speaking at public events.

The post will also include delivering clinical screenings; risk assessments; Full Clinical Assessments (FCA); Support Network Assessments (SNA); attendance at Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings; and other relevant meetings as part of the Psychological Therapies team, plus involvement in treatment planning, consultation, and advice to other Combat Stress staff on art therapy for the treatment of veterans.

To work closely with the Principal Clinical Psychologist to contribute to the development and enhancement of the treatment programmes delivered at Combat Stress; to contribute to ongoing service development and clinical governance processes; to engage in supervision of Band 6 and trainee art therapists; and to be involved in training and research initiatives as appropriate.

**Main Duties and Key Responsibilities**

**Management Responsibilities**

* To work with the Principal Clinical Psychologist to contribute to the development of art therapy services within clinical programmes at Combat Stress.

**Clinical Responsibilities**

* Conduct individual or group sessions where emotionally, highly complex psychotherapeutic relationships are formed and experienced.
* Employ a high level of sustained sensitivity and empathy when receiving highly personal information communicated to the therapist by the client in art therapy sessions.
* Exercise a high degree of skill in reducing the barriers the client may have to forming a psychotherapeutic relationship and to the exploration of thoughts and feelings through image making.
* Skilled in receiving and processing clients’ communications and expressions made in non-verbal modes.
* Recognise and understand the scope of practice where art therapy may or may not play a role when assessing and working therapeutically with a veteran.
* Articulate the nature and purpose of art therapy assessment to veterans, mental health professionals, or carers in the referral and initial assessment phase of contact.
* Following assessment, formulate and identify the most suitable mode of art therapy.
* Recognise that veterans have levels of need and will exercise professional judgement as to if and when an art therapy intervention can meet some of those needs.
* Carry a caseload as negotiated with the Principal Clinical Psychologist.
* Provide written summaries of the art therapy service over selected time periods, translating these highly complex client and therapist experiences into reports and recommendations that inform and assist colleagues.
* To provide psychological advice, guidance, and consultation to other professionals in the interdisciplinary teams of Combat Stress and to assist in the formulation, diagnosis, and treatment of Combat Stress Veterans.
* To provide reports communicated in a skilled and sensitive manner with respect to assessment, formulation, and treatment planning.
* To promote and develop positive and productive/effective working relationships with other interdisciplinary members of Combat Stress clinical teams.
* To provide clinical supervision for Band 6 and trainee art therapists.

**Administrative Responsibilities**

* To communicate skilfully, tactfully, and sensitively, highly complex and sensitive information with veterans, carers, and external referrers, considering sensory and cultural barriers relevant to veterans in particular, in this communication.
* To use Information Management and Technology effectively in accordance with the policies of the Charity.
* All staff who have access to veterans’ records have a responsibility to ensure that these are maintained efficiently, and that confidentiality is protected in line with organisational policies.
* Compile records on the assumption that they are accessible to veterans in line with the access to Health Records Act 1990.
* To complete incident reporting in accordance with the policies of the Charity.

**Education and Training**

* To provide advice, consultation, and education on art therapy, as appropriate, to other interdisciplinary staff working with veterans.
* To contribute to the development and delivery of internal staff development activities particularly with regard the role of art therapy.
* To provide professional, clinical supervision for Band 6 and trainee art therapists.

**Research, Audit and Service Evaluation**

* To undertake appropriate evaluation and audit research of art therapy services within Combat Stress as negotiated with the Principal Clinical Psychologist.
* To participate in and contribute to clinical audit and service evaluation with colleagues within the service, to help evaluate and improve service provision and develop appropriate reports as required as negotiated with the Principal Clinical Psychologist and other senior members of staff.

**Professional Responsibilities**

* To participate in regular professional supervision, line management, and appraisal as consistent with the requirements of Combat Stress and the post holder’s professional practice and/or Charity guidelines. This will include quarterly supervision with the Associate Clinical Director / Head of Psychological Therapies.
* To maintain and develop the highest standards of practice, through active participation in continuing professional development and maintaining an active engagement with current developments in trauma-informed art therapy in areas related to the post.

**General Responsibilities**

* Maintain art materials stock and equipment in usable condition and at sufficient quantities.
* Assist in procurement procedures for art therapy stock and equipment.
* To maintain up to date knowledge of legislation, national and local policies, and issues of relevance to veterans and Combat Stress.

|  |
| --- |
| * To undertake such other duties and responsibilities, appropriate to the grade of the post, as may be negotiated with the Principal Clinical Psychologist and the Associate Clinical Director / Head of Psychological Therapies.
 |

**Key Relationships**

* Principal Clinical Psychologist
* Associate Clinical Director / Head of Psychological Therapies
* Other psychological therapists
* Other art therapists
* Interdisciplinary team members, including Peer Support and Family Support
* National Veterans Voice (NVV)
* GPs
* NHS and other veteran mental health service providers

**Risk Management**

As an employee of the Charity, the postholder is required to be risk aware and readily able to identify risks faced in the course of day-to-day duties. Where a new risk is identified it is to be reported through the postholder’s line manager.

**Infection Prevention and Control**

* + Maintain an up-to-date awareness of the Infection control procedures relevant to your area of work and implement these in practice. As a minimum this must include hand hygiene and the use of personal protective equipment as appropriate.

“As a healthcare environment, and for the health and wellbeing of our staff, veterans and visitors, we encourage everyone at Combat Stress especially professionals that are veteran facing to take up the offer to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19”

April 2023

Signature of postholder

Print name

Date