



Job Title:	Clinical/Counselling Psychologist Children's Autism Service
Banding:	Range 7 – 8 (depending on experience and qualifications)
Location:	South Staffordshire
Base:	To be agreed
Accountable to:	Area Team Lead

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

General Information

The post holder will be a member of Midlands Psychology Community Interest Company (CIC) working within the Autism Team. We are the NHS providers of autism services to children 0-18 years.

Midlands Psychology is a Social Enterprise, which provides a range of community mental health and associated support through a network of practitioners, associates and service users. The organisation is an active contributor to the network of service providers who support children who have autism and their families.

As a not-for-profit Social Enterprise we are committed to the pursuit of social aims and reinvestment to further develop local services and facilities. An aspiration to provide excellence is upheld across all services, and we have an active process of continuous improvement and innovation to help us achieve this. We strive to build evaluation of activities into all of the work we do, enabling us to demonstrate effectiveness of clinical practice and contribute to the evidence base.

Overall Purpose of the Role

To be responsible for providing diagnostic assessment of children and young people whose behaviours and presentation are indicative of an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) as part of a specialist multi-disciplinary team.

To contribute to the intervention services provided by the autism service, according to need. This may involve 1:1 work with children and young people with a working or formal diagnosis of ASC, group interventions, consultation, training and support for carers and professionals.

To contribute to the overall strategic development of the service, as necessary. This will include consideration of referral, assessment and intervention models and design and delivery of training packages, alongside maintaining links with other local services based within the community of South Staffordshire (including links with colleagues in Health, Education and Local Authority Services).

Duties

Duties include assessment, psychological interventions, liaison, consultation, training and advisory activities, supervision and consultation to team colleagues. We encourage innovation and involvement in the ongoing development of the service through research and audit activities.

You will be joining a team of dedicated multi-disciplinary professionals, who are responsible for providing 'patch-based' assessment and post-diagnostic services to children referred to the Autism Service. We operate a 'hub and spoke' model, with our main administrative and clinical base being located in Stafford and community clinics operating from Burton on Trent, Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and Wombourne.

As we are a community service, this post will involve some travelling, therefore, it is essential that you have a full driving licence and access to a car. You are also required to have HCPC registration.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical

Main Responsibilities

- To provide detailed assessment of the social communication abilities of children and young people aged 0-18 years, as required and in accordance with the assessment model used by the service
- To provide advice and support according to individual clinical need and in collaboration with families and carers alongside professional colleagues.
- To provide a range of specialist therapy services that are timely, effective and promote good outcomes.
- To work as a full member of a specialist multi-disciplinary service.
- To manage own caseload effectively.
- To maintain and manage up-to-date accurate case notes according to clinical guidelines and in-line with professional standards and Midlands Psychology service policy.
- To be responsible for the day to day planning of own case load, demonstrating good organisational and prioritisation skills.
- To be aware of national and local standards in relation to the delivery of services and to ensure these are met in individual practice.
- To support and encourage innovation in the manner in which psychological services are delivered within the service and in liaison with colleagues.
- To undertake other duties that may be required from time to time for the operation of the service.
- To provide supervision to other members of the team where appropriate.

Knowledge and Experience

- Doctorate in clinical or counselling psychology
- Experience of working with children and young people with social communication difficulties associated with autism
- ADOS/ DISCO/ ADI or other specialist autism assessment experience would be particularly welcome
- Demonstration of clinical autonomy, professional accountability and responsibility for all aspects of own clinical work.

- Understanding of the impact of range of child and family issues contributing to the formulation of autism as a differential diagnosis
- Ability to use specialist knowledge and experience of planning and facilitating group-based interventions and programmes of care
- Excellent communication skills at all levels (both verbally and in writing)

Circumstances

- Full clean driving licence.
- Professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- Enhanced DBS clearance.
- Adherence to Midlands Psychology CIC policies and procedures.

Key Skills and Behaviours

- Specialist assessment and intervention experience
- Psychological formulation
- Interagency planning and participation in collaborative meetings.
- Development and implementation of joint working protocols.
- Provision of profession-specific recommendations to families and other professionals as appropriate.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to work within the team and within the wider organisation.
- To ensure monitoring and record keeping is to a high standard and in line with professional standards
- Audit and research activities.
- Report and interpret data and professional activity as required.
- Comply with the Data Protection Act.
- Carrying out other duties as negotiated with the Area Team Lead or Head of Autism Services.

This is not an exhaustive list of duties and responsibilities, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties which fall within the grade of the job, in discussion with the Head of Autism.

This job description will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing service requirements and any such changes will be discussed with the post-holder.

It is expected that the post-holder will abide by the BPS code of conduct and policies held by Midlands Psychology.