

Job Description

Job Details:	
Job Title:	Therapeutic Practitioner
Grade:	Band 5
Department:	Family Support Team
Directorate:	Patient & Family Services
Reporting to:	Psychological Support Lead
Location	Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley and Community settings

Job Summary / Main Purpose:

- To provide expert advice and therapeutic support to Dorothy House patients and their family members working closely with other members of the Multi-disciplinary Team and acting as a resource to provide specialist advice, support and education to health and social care colleagues, students and other professionals.
- To liaise with and provide support and education for volunteers, students and health and social care professionals.
- To provide therapeutic support for individuals.
- Line manage and support our volunteer team.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Clinical

- To carry a supportive/therapeutic caseload of individuals and families with complex emotional needs, respecting the rights and dignity of the individual at all times.
- To assess the needs of patients and their family members and offer interventions that promote healthy grieving and coping strategies.
- To provide one to one therapeutic/counselling sessions.
- To engage in group work with patients, family members and children.
- To work supportively and therapeutically with individuals and groups, working closely with colleagues in the Family Support Team and the wider MDT.
- To provide guidance and advocacy to parents & carers in relation to the future care of children whose parent/carer is terminally ill.
- To work with other members of the Family Support Team to facilitate therapeutic, social and peer support to patients and family members.
- To work closely with colleagues in the Dorothy House and wider community MDT, providing specialist knowledge of the emotional and social needs of individuals and families who are facing life threatening illness and bereavement.

- To recognise and action when referrals to other agencies, statutory and non-statutory, is appropriate or necessary and to work in partnership with health and social care colleagues.
- Ensure that detailed accurate information is taken at the assessment and the needs of the patient and family are recorded in the electronic patient database
- To provide support to Dorothy House Family Support Team Volunteers and share concerns and decision making with other FST Therapeutic Practitioners and, if needed, the wider MDT in order to maintain continuity of care.
- To participate in wider Dorothy House Hospice Care activities as appropriate.
- To have a clear understanding of Safeguarding and Clinical Governance issues and procedure that need to be adhered to.
- To develop and use therapeutic abilities in order to support the competencies of the volunteer teams.

Operational

- To prioritise own workload and organise and carry out work effectively.
- To work as a member of the Family Support Team and cover for other team members as required.
- To represent the Family Support Team at internal and external forums, to include attendance at community engagement events.
- To participate in the development, review and evaluation of family support services.
- To work with Family Support volunteers as appropriate.
- To engage in receiving regular Clinical Supervision as required by professional registration.
- To contribute to Dorothy House Quality improvement programme

Education

- To utilise learning opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of health and social care colleagues.
- To support education and support to volunteers.
- To initiate and participate in formal training programmes in collaboration with the Dorothy House's Education & Research and Training & Development Teams.
- To support learners undertaking appropriate health and social care courses, offering mentorship as appropriate.

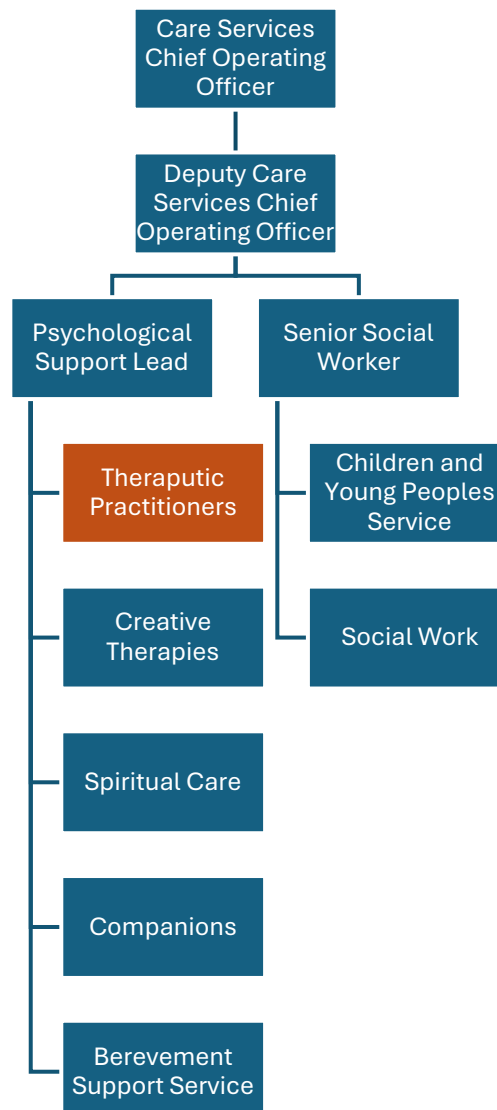
Research

- To use reflective and critical skills to evaluate current practice.
- To participate in evaluation and audit.
- To identify areas for research and inform appropriate colleagues.
- To participate in research, as appropriate, and apply relevant findings to practice and teaching.

Professional

- To work within the relevant professional registration body's Professional Codes of Conduct (eg. BACP; NCS; UKCP; BAPT).
- To abide by statutory legislation and guidance in relation to professional practice.
- To maintain links with local and national organisations and professional bodies to ensure best practice and to keep up to date with national and local legislation and policy developments.
- To work within the policies and procedures of Dorothy House.
- To participate in an annual Performance Development Review (PDR) and development plan
- To maintain professional competencies and skills required for the role
- To engage with opportunities for Continuing Professional Development

Structure Chart



Contacts

- Patients, families, carers and friends.
- All members of the Hospice Multi-Disciplinary team.
- All health and social care colleagues.
- Dorothy House Education Team.
- Dorothy House Volunteers.
- Other hospices and Specialist Palliative Care Teams.

Special Note

This job description does not form a part of the contract of employment but indicates how that contract should be performed. The job description will be subject to amendment in the light of experience and in consultation with the post holder.

No Smoking Policy

Dorothy House operates a No Smoking Policy for all staff, volunteers and visitors in relation to promoting health. It applies to the Hospice premises and grounds at Winsley, all Dorothy House shops and when staff are on duty in patient's homes.

Confidentiality

All of the work relating to patients, carers, donors, staff and volunteers and any other information gained are of a confidential nature and must not be communicated to other persons except in the course of duty.

Health and Safety at Work Act

It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure that the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act are complied with safe working practices are adhered to and that hazards are observed and reported to the appropriate office.

Safeguarding

Dorothy House is committed to promoting the wellbeing of all adults and children who use our services, ensuring that they live a life that is free from harm, abuse and neglect. We work in an open and transparent way and encourage staff, volunteers, patients and families to raise any safeguarding concerns. All staff should ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and attend the mandatory training as required.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Professional qualification in counselling or psychotherapy appropriate to the level of the role.	X	
Experience supporting individuals and/or families affected by life-limiting illness, death or bereavement - demonstrating emotional insight and	X	

knowledge of grief and loss processes (such as anticipatory (pre-bereavement) grief).		
Experience supporting or facilitating therapeutic groups.	X	
Excellent collaboration skills working within a multi-disciplinary team – awareness of group boundaries, observational skills, sensitivity, and being able to identify potential risks / areas for support.	X	
Can demonstrate a detailed experience recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns.	X	
Can demonstrate prioritisation skills with the ability to work flexibly, manage workloads, and oversee complex family dynamics sensitively.	X	
Experience delivering training to colleagues, students or volunteers relating to bereavement, emotional wellbeing or palliative care.		X
Previous experience working within a hospice or specialist palliative care service – demonstrating an understanding of the unique clinical, emotional and organisational demands of end-of-life care.		X
UK Driving Licence with access to a vehicle*	X	

* Due to the role requiring patient home visits, sometimes outside operational hours of public transport.