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| **Job title** | Mental Health Practitioner (Homeless & Housing) |
| **Responsible to** | Supported Housing Services Manager |
| **Geographical Reach** | North Kent – Gravesham (area of focus) |
| **Base** | Gravesend |
| **Hours** | Part Time – 25 Hours |
| **Salary** | £16,769 pro rota £12.90 per hour |
| **Contract** | Fixed Term – 2 years (22-24) |

**PURPOSE OF POST**

This post is to deliver Homeless & Housing Support Services & Advise to reduce the volume of rough sleepers in Gravesham with mental health needs.

**STRUCTURE OF THE POST**

The Supported Housing Services Manager supervises Mind Mental Health Practitioner (Homeless & Housing). They must be flexible to work in several venues throughout the North Kent Area, predominately Gravesham Borough and Dartford.

For the calculation of travel expenses, Civic Centre, Windmill St, Gravesend DA12 1AU shall be considered the base throughout, and travel between home and another working venue can only be claimed insofar as it is in excess of the distance between home and base. All time in travel between venues is counted as time worked.

Mind Mental Health Practitioner must be flexible to work some evenings and weekends, as necessary. Working days & hours to be negotiated depending on applicant availability and service needs. Contracted hours will be worked on an average weekly basis over a month rather than on a strict weekly basis.

**DUTIES OF THE POST: GENERAL**

These duties apply to all North Kent Mind Staff, whichever service they work for:

1. To work within a framework which:
   * + Abides by all the policies of North Kent Mind, including Equal Opportunities, Confidentiality and Health and Safety.
     + Promotes Social Inclusion, Empowerment, Well-being and the Recovery Model
     + Respects, encourages and builds on individual clients’ coping strategies, skills and autonomy, and is in keeping with the Codes of Practice for Social Care Workers as defined by the General Social Care Workers
     + Maintains good liaison with any other outside agencies as is necessary
     + Promotes good joint working, links, and cross-referral with all North Kent Mind colleagues.
     + Adheres to the principles of the Social Care Standards as defined by the GCSI
2. To participate in supervision and appraisal
3. To attend staff meetings and Support Services team meetings
4. To attend training/meetings and some annual events as required
5. To undertake any other duties which a senior manager or Board of Trustees may, from time to time, reasonably delegate, or assign.

###### **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

* To offer 1-2-1 support sessions and engage with allocated clients on your caseload.
* Rough Sleeper prevention work with clients who are threatened with homelessness, offering support
* Deliver high quality care and provide solutions to service users with mental health needs.
* Manage a caseload of homeless clients with Mental Health needs identified through the project, assertive outreach workers and housing team
* Identify client care pathways to support any mental health needs working in partnership with other community teams and primary care services (for example, CMHT)
* Support clients utilizing the Recovery & Person-Centred Model of practice to sustain temporary and substantive accommodation options.
* Respond swiftly to crisis, putting plans in place to try to prevent further escalation.
* Record and monitor incidents & challenging behaviour
* Complete and submit referrals on behalf of your clients for housing/care/mental health accommodations or other services.
* Complete and submit Safeguarding KASAF referrals forms when requested to do so.
* Assist clients attending assessments and interviews on move on accommodations.
* Offer 6 weeks remote assistance and support to clients who have moved on to new accommodations. Work in partnership at a multiagency level with accommodation providers.
* Attend with other RSI professionals multiagency practice drop-in twice a week.
* Work in partnership with other agencies to reduce the volume of rough sleepers in Gravesham with mental health needs
* Active participation as part of the Rough Sleeper Team to ensure a multi-agency response in Gravesham
* Provide advice, acting as an educator, to the project team regarding mental health support needs of clients
* Provide guidance to the team on the suitability of accommodation offers for clients with mental health needs
* Support and work in partnership with associated projects i.e. Emergency Accommodations
* Support the formulation and delivery of multi-agency; clients join needs assessments, support plans & risk assessments.
* Respond swiftly to crisis, putting plans in place to try and prevent further escalation
* Participate and support RSI multidisciplinary team bi-monthly and annual street counts. (out of hours 4am -6am, and complete counts paperwork)
* Work closely with NKM Supported Housing Schemes, RSI (Rough Sleepers Initiative) & Wrotham Road Accommodation Project
* Input via INFORM (Sales Force) to collate data
* Produce reports for, the RSI manager, quarterly returns meetings, and annual audits.
* Attend joint clients’ needs assessments.
* Keep accurate and up to date data for caseload and interventions.

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Person Specification

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Academic qualifications level required:  CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse), OT (Occupational Therapist), Social Worker, Other Social & Care Qualified Professionals (Practitioner Psychologist, Counsellors, PWP, High Intensive Therapist, etc.). Other qualifications will be considered. | ✓ |  |
| Substantial knowledge & experience in the field of mental health. | ✓ |  |
| Knowledge & experience in the field of rough sleepers. |  | ✓ |
| An understanding of the issues, needs & risks affecting people with mental health problems | ✓ |  |
| An awareness and understanding of Housing options & Mental Health Services for people who experience mental health difficulties and in need of housing | ✓ |  |
| A non-judgemental attitude to mental health service users | ✓ |  |
| An understanding and awareness of Recovery & Person-Centred Model working with MH clients | ✓ |  |
| An empowering and positive attitude to mental health service users | ✓ |  |
| An understanding of the social inclusion agenda | ✓ |  |
| Ability to work with service users (Rough Sleepers with MH issues) on a diverse range of subjects | ✓ |  |
| Ability & experience to work within a multidisciplinary & multiagency team | ✓ |  |
| Experience of completing referrals, support plans, risk assessments & professional reports | ✓ |  |
| Experience gathering and collecting data for contract/ project monitoring purposes | ✓ |  |
| Good written skills | ✓ |  |
| Excellent communication skills | ✓ |  |
| Excellent listening skills | ✓ |  |
| An understanding of the need for strong professional boundaries | ✓ |  |
| Proactive and flexible approach to problem solving | ✓ |  |
| Experience of facilitating outcome and output monitoring systems | ✓ |  |
| Good organisation skills | ✓ |  |
| Good computer skills | ✓ |  |
| Able to work on own initiative | ✓ |  |
| Car driver/owner |  | ✓ |
| Ability to work flexible hours | ✓ |  |
| Experience & ability to work with challenging clients with multiple needs & manage crisis effectively | ✓ |  |