



The Bridge Foundation: The Bridge in Schools

Placement Opportunity for Honorary Child Counsellor/Therapist

The Bridge Foundation provides a specialist mental health service for staff, parents, children and families in primary and secondary schools.

Honorary Counsellors/ Psychotherapists are asked to carry a caseload of up to 4 sessions per week. There is no remuneration, but in exchange for offering these hours, Honorary counsellors/psychotherapists are given fortnightly clinical supervision with an experienced child therapist, attend school team meetings, and are invited to attend staff clinical meetings and CPD. The clinical hours are arranged at the convenience of the therapist/school. All supervision and service meetings take place each Wednesday morning during term time at the Bridge Foundation.

The honorary counsellor/therapist will be based in a school serving a deprived area of the city. S/he will provide counseling/therapy sessions for troubled children/young people who have exhausted the school pastoral support system, and whose emotional needs remain a cause for concern. Case management will be provided by the Bridge therapist in post at the school.

The post will be for up to 1.5 days per week, comprised of 4 sessions in school and half a day to attend supervision and team meetings on a Wednesday morning at the Bridge Foundation. However, we would consider less hours dependent on applications received.

The time commitment is a minimum of one year. Confirmation of appointment would be subject to two satisfactory references, of which one should be from a current clinical supervisor.

Child protection and other relevant training is provided in line with service requirements.

Honorary therapists are also entitled to free places at Bridge conferences.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Experience of working with children
- Counselling training/qualification (or completing psychodynamic training)
- Experience / evidence of interest in working within a psychodynamic framework
- Evidence of the capacity to work with colleagues in teams

Desirable

- Relevant knowledge, skills, interest and experience, amongst which might be experience with / qualifications in working
 - with BME and/or refugee/asylum seekers
 - with parents/families in community settings
 - with diversity
- Experience or training in working with interpreters
- Capacity to maintain records and prepare written reports and make presentations.
- Experience of working with other agencies, including statutory services

JOB DESCRIPTION

- To carry out initial client assessments, with support from the case manager.
- To provide psychotherapy/counselling sessions to children.
- To take clinical notes and keep up clinical records
- To record relevant information as a contribution to project monitoring and evaluation
- To participate in, contribute to, and learn from, regular supervision sessions
- To liaise with school staff over referrals and assessment
- To liaise with other agencies, including statutory services, if necessary
- To carry responsibility for equipment, records, and the use of space for counselling sessions
- To attend regular relevant management and Bridge Foundation team meetings where appropriate
- To work with interpreters as necessary
- To comply with and work within the Bridge Foundation's policies, procedures and guidelines, including those related to Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety, Confidentiality of Information, Child Protection and Record Keeping