**Job Title: Children’s Counsellor/Therapist**

**Location: 1 post covering WHSCT**

 **1 post covering SEHSCT & BHSCT**

**Hours: 16 per week**

**Contract: 4 years fixed term**

**Salary: £26,435 pro rata**

**Pension: Standard auto enrolment pension scheme**

**Responsible to: Your Choice Project Co-ordinator**

**Clinical Support: Individual clinical supervision**

 **Available monthly – Reflective Group Supervision**

**Background**

Nexus has over 35 years’ experience offering a specialised professional counselling service to survivors of sexual trauma. We also provide training and education workshops across Northern Ireland on topics such as consent, relationship and sexuality education, internet safety and child sexual exploitation.

From April 2019, Nexus also manage the 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline, which is funded by the Department of Health, Department of Justice and the Department for Communities.

Our people are a dedicated and professional group of individuals who are vital to the success of the Organisation. We aim to be champions of lasting positive change for people affected by sexual assault/ trauma providing a positive influence through the delivery of influential, professional, quality driven and sustainable services.

**Job Purpose**

This post supports delivery of Nexus Children’s Counselling Service. Nexus helps children from the age of 8 to deal and process issues relating to Sexual abuse and trauma.

This may be delivered through a range of therapeutic disciplines including Play, Music, Clay, Art, or Integrative children’s therapeutic approaches.

The service meets a diverse range of emotional and psychological needs that can be addressed through therapeutic support. Children present with a wide range of psychological, emotional, or social issues. The overarching aim is to increase each child’s emotional well-being and improve their learning potential by engaging them in a person-centred model, working at their pace establishing methods to help overcome past traumas.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

**Therapeutic Service Delivery**

* To work as part of Nexus team of trained child therapists who take a child-centred approach to counselling and supporting the children, their parents and carers
* To assess requests for counselling from parents or carers, by engaging with parents/carers to build an understanding of the child, their family and the situation while identifying therapeutic goals to best support the child
* To ensure an initial assessment will be completed with the child’s parent(s), caregiver(s) or legal guardian(s) to determine if this is the most appropriate service for the child
* To be familiar with assessing for informed consent for counselling given by those with parental responsibility for the child in accordance with Gillick Competence Guidelines
* To use a range of modalities including play, art and music therapies helping children to reduce stress and process feelings to help children develop and facilitate communication skills improve self-confidence and independence; enhance self-awareness and awareness of others
* To deliver face-to-face safe and confidential counselling sessions on a flexible basis meeting the needs of young children
* To attend monthly individual clinical supervision
* To promote and manage effective communication with clients and key stakeholders whilst maintaining boundaries of confidentiality
* To agree with the client and their caregiver a therapeutic contract for the work. This includes regularly reviewing progress through outcome measures recorded throughout counselling and through discussion with the client and parent/caregiver during parental reviews.

**Service Quality**

* Be familiar with and comply with all relevant organisational policies including but not limited to: Child Protection; Risk Assessment, Management and Mitigation; Lone working; Confidentiality; Health and Safety
* Comply with legislative frameworks relevant to the work
* Ensure adherence to the Ethical Framework for good practice in counselling
* Achieve the highest standards of safeguarding for families, children, young people, and vulnerable adults who encounter our services
* Maintain and ensure storage of records in accordance with Nexus’ professional and confidential procedures
* Promote equal opportunities in all areas of work
* To implement monitoring and evaluation systems and procedures to ascertain user/ stakeholder satisfaction and service impact. Child reporting tools are completed by all child clients and their caregivers/parents or significant other adults using the appropriate outcome measures and procedure
* Contribute to information used to inform and evaluate the Nexus children’s counselling service for reporting on feedback for funders, stakeholders, and annual reports
* The Chief Executive on behalf of Nexus may from time to time determine such other duties which are consistent with the post

**Personal Development**

* To continue to participate in ongoing professional/ personal development opportunities
* To attend a personal review and appraisal meeting
* To keep abreast of new research, developments in practice and in the operating environment / social policy framework
* To attend clinical supervision, line management meetings, team meetings etc
* To maintain levels of mandatory training requirements

**Person Specification**

**Essential Criteria**

**Qualifications**

Practitioners delivering this service must have:

* Professional qualification in counselling or psychotherapy, children and young people (minimum Diploma level 4 or equivalent) or professional qualification in Art, Music, Drama (minimum Master’s level or RQF level equivalent) or Play Therapy (minimum post graduate diploma level or RQF equivalent)
* Accredited with BACP, HCPC, UKCP, IACP, BAT or AFT or equivalent, or working to achieve within 6 months of appointment
* Minimum of 200 post qualification supervised clinical hours
* Experience of working with children and young people in a clinical setting
* Experience of working with groups of children and young people in a therapeutic environment
* Experience of working clinically within statutory and/or voluntary agencies
* Current full driving licence, valid in the UK and access to a car on appointment or access to a form of transport which will permit them to carry out the duties and requirements of the post in full

**Experience**

* At least one years’ experience in the last 3 years of providing counselling/therapy with children up to the age of 18 and understand child development and an awareness of issues impacting children
* Counsellors/therapists must have sound knowledge and experience of working to the current BACP (or equivalent body) competencies for working with children and young people 8-18 years and its relevance to their counselling context
* An understanding of equal opportunities issues
* Comply with Nexus NI Policies, Procedures and Specification Guidelines
* Therapists must have the relevant level of clinical supervision to meet their professional regulatory requirements
* All practitioners delivering this service will be Access NI checked to an enhanced level and maintain evidence of a level of CPD

**Skills**

* Listening and problem solving skills
* Ability to maintain strict confidentiality
* Ability to manage personal and time boundaries
* Excellent oral and written skills
* Ability to use ICT
* Team player

**Availability**

* Flexible working in terms of days and location
* Attendance at clinical supervision, line management meetings, team meetings etc.
* Full valid driving licence and / or access to transport to enable you to fulfil work responsibilities

**Desirable Criteria**

Qualifications/Experience

* Speak languages other than English
* Training in online counselling and/or experience of delivering online counselling

**This job description is neither exhaustive nor exclusive and the post holder will be expected to undertake duties within competence which are required in line with the overall job purpose. The role profile may be reviewed and amended in the future to include any other reasonable duties, projects or tasks as may be requested from time to time and to reflect changing organisational requirements, strategic or operational priorities, and changing staffing levels.**

**Nexus reserves the right to enhance the criteria for short-listing purposes in the event of a large number of applications being received.**