

JOB DESCRIPTION / PROFILE

Job Title	Reaching Out Mental Health Practitioner – Assertive Engagement Pathway
Payband/Grade	Band 6
Directorate	Reaching Out Service, Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Services for Children, Surrey Alliance
Job Description Reference	

My job makes better lives by supporting vulnerable children and young people where there are multi-agency concerns about their ability to access emotional wellbeing and mental health support which could significantly enhance their ability to reach their full potential. My role will be vital in engaging vulnerable children and young people across Surrey who are not in education or employment, have experienced inequality and cannot otherwise be supported by services.

Job Overview

This role will be part of the Assertive Engagement Pathway within the Reaching Out Service. The Reaching Out service focuses on engaging and supporting the most isolated and vulnerable children and young people through a multi-agency network. The Assertive Engagement Pathway focuses on supporting those children and young people who are not currently in contact with services including those not in education, employment or training, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and those under Youth Offending Services.

The Reaching Out Mental Health Practitioner will work with children and young people from the ages of 8 to 25 that currently aren't attending school or in employment. They will assist them to engage in education or training school, access support from appropriate services and ultimately achieve and maintain their independence in the community. A key part of this role is building relationships and trust with children and young people. An important requirement of a successful candidate is the ability to creatively adapt their approach to engage with each individual and be approachable, friendly and tenacious. Through building a trusting relationship, the Reaching Out Mental Health Practitioner will be able to develop a deeper understanding of the needs of the children and young people and being able to signpost or refer to more appropriate services. This role will involve outreach into the community to meet children and young people in their own environments.

NHS Competencies	Level
Communication	2
Personal and People Development	2
Health, Safety and Security	1
Service Improvement	1
Quality	2
Equality and Diversity	2
IT Skills	2

Personal Competencies	
Interpersonal Sensitivity	2
Courage	2
Teamworking	2
Values	
Treat People Well	
Create Respectful Places	
Involve not Ignore	

For a better life

Statutory Requirements
HCPC, NMC or Social Work registration

Open, Inclusive and Accountable

Qualifications required

- Degree or diploma level qualification in Nursing, Social Work or Occupational Therapy

Experience required

- 2-year post qualification experience of working in the community with young people with mental health difficulties and their families.

Experience of and ability to undertake:

- ☐ Mental Health Assessments,
- ☐ Risk Assessment and implementation of risk management plans
- ☐ Use of outcome measures to evidence good practice

This position is suitable for someone who is passionate about providing high quality, evidence-based care and treatment to young people with emerging mental health difficulties.

Suitable for someone who has excellent communication skills and an adaptable, nonjudgmental approach enabling them to establish rapport and trust with vulnerable children and young people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Lived experience or awareness of the broad range of challenges these vulnerable young people face such as bullying, risk exploitation, traumatic events, poor support, criminal activity, county lines and gang culture, is essential. Successful candidates will have the ability to work well individually and as a member of a multidisciplinary team whilst knowing their own limitations.

Key Responsibilities

- To hold an individual complex caseload.
- Being comfortable lone working with children and young people.
- Ability to engage and build relationships with vulnerable children and young people, who will often have complex backgrounds.
- Persistence and tenacity in building rapport and relationships with children and young people, who struggle to communicate and trust.
- Being able to think creatively about how to engage with vulnerable children and young people.
- Good understanding of broad age range, life stage, and ability to adapt approach to suit needs.

- Being a consistent and reliable advocate/voice for a young person.
- Understanding a young person's needs/challenges and signposting to appropriate services to support that young person.
- Understanding of the school system and linking in with the schools and wider support networks to create an action to plan to re-engage children in school.
- To liaise with colleagues and other professionals or agencies as required, including attending case conferences, planning meetings etc.
- Being able to work with families in a way which is helpful to that young person.
- Being willing to do outreach work and travel across the county to see young people within their environments such as home, park, cafes.
- Must hold a current driving license and have access to a car for work purposes.
- IT skills including ability to use a computer.
- Ability to accurately and concisely document notes and risks onto system after sessions.
- Ability to conduct risk assessments, identify changes to clinical risk and implement actions to ensure a person's safety.
- Knowledge of responsibilities in relation to the Children's Act.
- Knowledge and awareness of Safeguarding procedures and the experience of developing a plan of care to safeguard an adult or child.