

Job specification

Job title: Rehabilitation Officer - Visual Impairment

Service: Early Intervention

Grade: G7

Reporting to: Early Intervention Manager

Your job

You will work with service users who are experiencing difficulties with their ability to complete daily living activities and have reduced levels of independence due to their sensory loss.

You will work with visually impaired people who have additional complex needs such as dual sensory loss, learning, physical and mental health disabilities in recognition of the cumulative effect of additional disabilities and liaise with other specialist workers as necessary. You'll plan, implement, evaluate and review rehabilitative services for the visually impaired person with the aim of maximising and maintaining independence, safety, dignity and choice.

You will ensure the delivery of high quality and effective services to adults, families and carers using a personalised and asset based approach that promotes health and wellbeing and achieves positive outcomes. You'll support people to optimise their engagement in the local community to develop outcome based recommendations.

You will work closely with integrated community colleagues to promote the use of the asset based approach, ensuring this is provided across the multi-disciplinary workforce. You will work collaboratively with our partners and health colleagues in order to support people to remain independent in their own homes and reduce the need for inpatient hospital services and will develop and maintain links with primary and secondary care and public health services in particular Ophthalmology, Optometry practices and GP practices.

The Council is committed to complying with the European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and meeting the requirements of the Information Commissioner's office (regulating data protection compliance in the UK). It is your responsibility to ensure that the work you undertake is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations.

In this job you will

On an ongoing basis you will:

- Identify, deliver and evaluate professional rehabilitation interventions to visually impaired people to enhance their skills and confidence to maximise their independence
- Assess and provide support to help people at risk from harm or becoming dependent on others due to their sight loss
- Act as an advocate for visually impaired and people experiencing a dual sensory loss and to the organisation to help promote accessible services; equality; social integration and understanding of the impact of sight loss
- Undertake specialist visual impairment assessments with the visually impaired person to identify their needs and aspirations to promote independent living

- Provide daily living skills training including new skills or adapted practice for all aspects of daily living, home management, employment and leisure
- Provide communication training - including all forms of access to communication including but not limited to print, Braille, Moon, audio description, ICT, telephones, Deafblind manual and block alphabet
- Develop planned programmes of training to develop independence in indoor and outdoor mobility environments, including guiding skills, pre-cane, long cane, orientation (including specialist equipment) and route planning techniques
- Provide low vision training/therapy in coordination with local NHS low vision services that helps individuals make the best use of functional vision, magnifiers, lighting and other low vision aids
- Assess and recommend minor works of adaptation as highlighted in the specialist visual impairment assessment and liaise with all relevant parties in line with employer's budget and policies
- Work within a safeguarding framework to identify, manage and where possible reduce risk to visually impaired people, family, carers, communities, self and colleagues
- Support visually impaired people to represent their culture, needs, views and circumstances where appropriate
- Preparation for and participation in regular technical and managerial supervision and annual performance from appropriately qualified supervisors
- Ensure you operate within GDPR guidelines by regularly reviewing data held and destroying information in line with retention schedules

In this job you will need

You must be able to demonstrate the following essential requirements:

- Honours Degree or Diploma of Higher Education/Foundation Degree in Rehabilitation Studies (Visual Impairment) or equivalent
- The ability to practice in accordance with the National Occupational Standards for Specialist Sensory Workers
- The ability to manage and be accountable for, with supervision and managerial support, your own practice within your organisation, including maintaining professional development
- The ability to maintain an up-to-date knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, statutory codes, standards, framework and guidance relevant to rehabilitation practice and related fields
- An understanding of the psychological aspects of sight loss and the ability to provide emotional support as part of the rehabilitation process to the individual, their family and carers
- A working knowledge of the safe use of a wide range of specialist equipment and the ability to keep up to date with any changes
- An up-to-date knowledge of: eye conditions and treatments; and the practical application of teaching and learning theories.
- Experience of supervising, mentoring and supporting student Rehabilitation

- The ability to provide information and advice regarding visual impairment to all departments of the employing agency
- Experience of providing specialist information and advice to employers regarding communication/contact with visually impaired people in their preferred formats in line with the Equality Act
- Experience of preparing for and contributing to relevant decision making forums such as case conferences

Our culture

For us, it's not just about all we achieve as an organisation, but how we do it. Therefore, all employees are expected to display our **Be Wigan** behaviours.

Be Positive... take pride in all that you do

Be Accountable... be responsible for making things better

Be Courageous... be open to doing things differently

Individuals with line management responsibilities are also expected to ...

Inspire... lead by example and help others to see the big picture

Care... show genuine concern for people as individuals and value their contributions

Engage... I connect with others both within and beyond the organisation

Staff Deal

Our Staff Deal is an informal agreement with all staff. It outlines what you can expect from us, and in return what we expect from you

Our part

- Provide strong, honest and visible leadership
- Reward your commitment and hard work
- Care for your health and well being
- Listen to you and put your ideas into action
- Support you to give something back
- Offer opportunities to learn and grow
- Be one team, one council
- Believe in you

Your part

- Listen, be open, honest and friendly
- Be efficient, flexible and professional
- Care for your health and stay active
- Tell us how we can improve
- Give something back whenever you can
- Take opportunities to learn and grow
- Be one team, one council
- Believe in yourself and our borough

