**Job Description**

**Job Reference: CR1**

**Job Title:** Art or Play Therapist **Salary:** £30, 000 pro rata per annum  **Duration:** Part time (21 hours per week),

**Base:** YCSA, 48 Darnley Street

**Reports to:** YCSA Manager

**BACKGROUND**

Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA) provides holistic support through a variety of services to ensure young people aged 10 - 25 from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds have effective support to help them overcome barriers and reach positive destinations. This post sits within the new YCSA Healthy Young Minds Project, alongside a Counsellor, developing mental wellbeing and resilience among BME young people aged 11-16 (P.7 – S.4) in the Govanhill and Pollokshields areas of Glasgow. Support will also be provided to parents/carers of the young people.

This post is funded by Comic Relief until 2025.

**Summary of Job Purpose**

The Art or Play Therapist will:

* Provide a safe and effective1:1 and small group therapeutic service to BME young people aged 11-16 (P.7 – S.4) in the Govanhill and Pollokshields areas of Glasgow and/or their parents/carers.
* Contribute to groupwork to develop resilience and mental wellbeing for young people e.g. regarding transition from Primary to Secondary schools
* Liaise with other therapeutic services in schools and with school staff around promoting mental wellbeing in schools
* Ensure the delivery of best practice throughout the YCSA Healthy Young Minds Project.
* Contribute to effective performance management within the service and contribute to service development.

**Key duties & Responsibilities**

**1. To provide a safe and effective therapeutic service**

* To provide art or play therapy for BME young people and/or their parents/carers, assisting them to explore their circumstances, their feelings and the options open to them through recognised art or play therapy methodologies
* To assist in recruiting counselling / art/play therapy volunteers, ensuring all volunteers work to professional standards and YCSA policies and are supported in achieving these.
* To participate, and ensure volunteers participate, in supervision and ongoing training regularly in line with YCSA policies and procedures.
* To organise group supervision/development meetings for volunteers as appropriate.
* To develop and oversee a range of wellbeing services and initiatives, in conjunction with other YCSA staff and volunteers.
* To assess when a young person may be at risk and follow YCSA Child Protection/ Vulnerable Adult procedures.
* To maintain an awareness of own and other’s health and safety and comply with YCSA’s Health and Safety procedures.
* To assess which resources are appropriate in response to the needs of young people.
* To refer young people to appropriate YCSA or external services for further support as appropriate.
* To work as part of a team of the YCSA team and actively participate in team meetings.
* To utilise YCSA information systems to input information for each contact with a child or young person.

**2. To deliver best practice within the service**

* To keep up to date with developments in best practice and relevant legislation.
* To ensure the service delivery standards and procedures are maintained.
* To contribute towards service development and assessment of outcomes

**3. To contribute to effective performance management within the Counselling and Wellbeing** **service and contribute to service development**

* To develop, and work to, action plans for the delivery of the YCSA Healthy Young Minds Project
* To publicise the service and to liaise with a range of agencies including schools, health services and voluntary sector organisations to encourage appropriate referrals to the service.
* To liaise with art/play therapy training organisations and providers to encourage the recruitment of suitable volunteers.
* To comply with service standards in particular for accurate case recording and maintenance of case records and ensure volunteers do likewise.
* To contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Counselling and Wellbeing service.
* To identify development opportunities that can further meet the wellbeing needs of vulnerable BME young people/ families.
* To prepare reports on the outcomes of the service.
* To attend and contribute to briefings and training events.

**Person Specification**

**Job Title:** Art or Play Therapist

**PVG Scheme:** The role requires the successful applicant to join the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (Disclosure of convictions) if not already a member. The post is subject to the Scheme Record being accessed prior to the post commencing and will be funded by YCSA.

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| **Experience, skills and knowledge sought** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Qualifications/  Documentation | * Recognised Art or Play Therapy qualification * Registration relevant professional body | * Qualification/ experience in other wellbeing related services eg mindfulness * Full UK driving licence |
| Knowledge and Experience | * At least 2 years experience of providing Art or Play Therapy, to include experience of working with children/young people * Experience of providing appropriate interventions and support to young persons during times of crisis * Experience of child protection issues and the assessment of risk * Understanding of issues impacting on diverse ethnic minority groups in Scotland especially young people * Experience of networking and partnership working with a range of agencies * Up to date knowledge of best practice, research and legislation in relation to Art/Play Therapy and young people * A youth-centred approach and understanding of young people’s rights and best interests | * Experience of undertaking work with diverse ethnic minority groups/ BME young people * Knowledge of working within voluntary sector organisations * Experience of managing staff/volunteers |
| Personal Skills | * Good verbal communication skills and ability to communicate appropriately with a range of people * Excellent listening skills * The ability to reflect on best practice and articulate recommendations with clarity * The ability to work independently and as part of team * Good organizational skills in relation to coordinating work involving others * Good time management skills including the ability to prioritise tasks and see tasks through to a timely completion * Ability to use Microsoft Office computer packages, email and internet * Ability to write in a range of registers including report writing * Ability to maintain accurate records | * Ability to communicate in a minority language commonly used in Glasgow * Experienced in using a range of social media |
| Values and attitudes | * A non-judgmental outlook with the ability to handle difficult situations with sensitivity * Understanding of the importance of confidentiality and personal boundaries * Willing to take direction from other staff/ manager * Must display and embrace values of Respect, Equality, Anti-discrimination, Diversity, Dignity, Inclusivity, Openness |  |