

## JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title: Female Specialist Support Worker**

**Department: Operations**

**Accountable To: Service Manager**

*These posts are open to female applicants only as being female is deemed to be a genuine occupational qualification under the Equality Act 2010*

1. **JOB SUMMARY**

To provide a psychologically informed service to women with multiple needs, as part of a team, which is responsive to their changing needs. In addition, Imagine expects all employees to carry out their duties in a manner which actively demonstrates commitment to the organisational objectives as they relate to individual posts and in particular to be pro-active in working in a socially inclusive way.

1. **LOCATION**

The post will be based at Imagine’s Women Only Support Service in Salford but post holders will be expected to work flexibly as part of a cluster and work at any site as required, within the Greater Manchester area.

1. **SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY**

This post has no direct supervisory responsibilities but there is of course a duty upon all employees to be aware of appropriate service standards and to report any breach of standards to someone in authority.

1. **MAIN DUTIES**

***Under the guidance of the Service Managers and Senior Specialist Support Workers***

1. ***Service Focus***
* To work directly with women in providing a high quality delivery of service using appropriate planning and monitoring tools.
* To support women to achieve their goals, in line with their support plan.
* To follow risk management plans, regularly read formulations and risk profiles ensuring you are aware of triggers and recognise signs of deteriorating mental health and appropriate interventions
* To have a coherent, psychologically informed understanding of each service user, and be able to respond to service users in a reliable relationally informed way
* To regularly engage in reflective practice sessions which provide support and training to work therapeutically with service users.
* To ensure that the women are empowered at every reasonable opportunity to make decisions and take control over their life and service, unless this is clearly detrimental to their well-being.
* To foster a ‘hope and recovery’ model so that the women can move their life forward looking for real community connections, friends, hobbies, interests, work and being creative and challenging about the support provided.
* To encourage women to attend service user forums
* To encourage women to access complimentary therapy sessions, and other areas of activity held at the service
* To take part in continually mapping community opportunities
* To use Planning Tools such as The Inclusion Web to support women to access socially inclusive opportunities
* As part of women’s CPA arrangements, to liaise with external professionals, e.g. GP’s, CPN’s, Care Managers etc.
* To promote women’s rights and responsibilities, providing advice and information to women and others, where appropriate.
* To encourage women to recognise, understand and begin to address factors which affect their wellbeing.
* To work in accordance with any service specification or contractual arrangements providing a flexible service which is responsive to individual needs.
1. ***Teamwork***
* To work as an effective part of the team in ensuring that women receive a high quality and responsive service.
* To use a variety of means of communication effectively.
* To ensure that any matter of concern relating to any of the women is immediately notified to a manager.
* To be involved in team building and planning processes and ensure that any designated responsibilities arising from any action plans are undertaken as required.
* To work within a psychological framework ensuring that you work consistently with service users in a reliable informed way
* To be proactive in adhering to all health and safety requirements and reporting any matters of concern immediately to a manager.
* To ensure all administrative, recording and reporting requirements are undertaken in an appropriate and timely way.
1. ***Personal Requirements***
* To work within a team approach at any Imagine services/sites in the Merseyside area, as reasonably directed.
* To develop appropriate contacts and networks as dictated by individual service requirements.
1. **REQUIREMENTS - *All employees are expected to:***
* Act with integrity at all times and with a proactive professional manner.
* Ensure that principles of quality are included in all aspects of work
* Always be responsive to client priorities
* Adhere to all Imagine policies and procedures at all times
* Demonstrate working within the organisations objectives
* Comply with safeguarding, health and safety and any other statutory regulatory requirements
* Undertake any other tasks which may be requested from time to time by the organisation
* Safeguard all organisation property or privileged knowledge.
* Meet targets and objectives as set by the line manager
* Undertake all duties and tasks in an efficient accurate manner resulting in excellent service provision.
1. **TRAINING and DEVELOPMENT**
* Commitment to continuous personal development, participate fully in relevant training and learning
* Attend and participate in staff meetings
* Attend and participate in regular supervision, including reflecting on own practice and an annual personal review
* To contribute to the learning of other staff
1. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Imagine aims to provide high quality services to enhance the quality of life of people experiencing disadvantage. In order to fulfil this aim, it operates a policy of equal opportunities to ensure that no client, job applicant, employee, volunteer or carer is discriminated against either directly or indirectly on the grounds of gender, age, race, colour, sexuality, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability or marital status.

1. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

In the course of your duties you may have access to confidential information about individuals or about Company business. Under no circumstances must this information be communicated to anyone other than the authorised persons. These may include medical or other professional staff who are involved in the care and treatment of the person. If in doubt refer to the Line Manager

*Please note that this job profile may be amended to meet the needs of the service and does not preclude other tasks as directed by the team leader. Alteration will be discussed in advance with the post holder whose agreement will not be unreasonably withheld. The job description does not form part of your contract of employment.*

*Sign: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

When completing your application form please bear in mind that short listing will be undertaken against the evidence presented by you of how you meet the essential criteria detailed in the person specification**.**

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| **PERSON SPECIFICATION****FEMALE SPECIALIST SUPPORT WORKER** | **Essential/ Desirable** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Qualifications**1. Willingness to work towards NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care
2. Evidence of continued personal development
 | **E****E** | App form/Interview App form/Interview |
| **Experience (Paid/Voluntary)**1. Experience of working with women either in supported housing and/or mental health or community setting.
2. Appropriate transferable skills as relevant to the service specification.
3. Experience of working with people who have multiple needs, either paid or voluntary
 | **D****E****E** | App form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/Interview |
| **Skills & Abilities**1. Good communication skills and the ability to liaise effectively at all levels.
2. Ability to problem solve creatively.
3. Good organisational and time management skills.
4. Understanding and ability to implement and utilise relevant I.T. systems
5. Record keeping skills.
6. The ability to develop and sustain empowering relationships with clients
7. An ability to act calmly in emergencies, respond professionally & responsibly to distress, disturbance and unpredictable and challenging behaviour
 | **E****E****E****D****E****E****E** | App formApp form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp formInterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/Interview |
| **Knowledge/Understanding**1. An understanding of the social inequalities that impact on women’s mental health and that can be further sustained within mental health and social care services and settings
2. An understanding of the multi-layered experiences of abuse and trauma that this client group may have endured - in child and adulthood within ‘the home’, community, criminal justice system and mental health system – and the ways in which these corrosive experiences have impacted on their mental health and their interaction with others
3. An awareness of child sexual abuse and it’s ramifications
4. Understanding of the benefits of social inclusion
 | **E****E****E****E** | App form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/Interview |
| **Personal Attributes**1. Excellent interpersonal skills.
2. To be committed to the ethos of team-working and be supportive of colleagues and other staff.
3. Ability to motivate and encourage
4. A positive approach to feedback.
5. A commitment to Imagine’s philosophy and organisation objectives.
6. A commitment to equality, diversity and social inclusion.
7. Flexible approach to working location and times, including evening and weekends
8. Drive and enthusiasm with a commitment to deliver.
9. Belief in the possibility of positive change in, and recovery of, people experiencing multiple mental health difficulties.
10. Commitment to the empowerment of clients in relation to both the personal care and support they need/receive and the regular review of the service’s model of care
11. A non-judgemental and patient approach
12. Genuine empathy and compassion for this client group and conveying this to women residents
 | **E****E****E****E****E****E****E****E****E****E****E****E** | App form/Interview App form/InterviewApp form/Interview App form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/InterviewApp form/Interview App form/Interview App form/Interview App form/Interview |