

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title:	Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space Advice Worker
Reports to:	Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space Manager
Location:	Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space (CHWS), Whitgift Centre, North End, Croydon CR0 1LP (additional locations may be identified in the future)
Salary:	£30,000
Hours:	36 hours per week (full time), Monday to Friday with occasional weekend working required
Contract:	Fixed Term until 31 March 2026 – with potential to extend depending on funding.

Croydon Health & Wellbeing Space (CHWS) is an exciting and dynamic service, run in partnership with Mind in Croydon and Croydon BME Forum and commissioned by South London and Maudsley Mental Health Service (SLaM). The CHWS opened in 2022 with the aim of providing advice, information, and specialist support to Croydon residents with mental health concerns, who drop-in, or have been referred to the via the local Integrated Care Network Plus multi-disciplinary clinical and community mental health support teams.

The Advice Worker will be part of a friendly team, including crisis workers and clinical mental health professionals and function as the first point of access for visitors to the CHWS. Following an initial conversation to ascertain the clients' needs, the Advice Worker will provide information and advice, as well as signposting and referrals to specialist services, such as the Mental Health Personal Independence Co-ordinators, Social Prescribers and Community Link Workers, in addition to the wider voluntary and statutory services in the borough. The role will be fast paced and vary each day offering a fantastic opportunity for the postholder to develop their knowledge and skills and make a difference to the users of this service.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide advice, information and support to people who visit the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space. The post-holder will be based in the direct access drop-in area and will have their own caseload.
- Provide a reassuring and friendly welcome and ensure that visitors are referred to the correct person or service within the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space and re-direct members of the public to internal and external services where necessary.
- Provide information and advice about issues affecting clients, including mental health, housing, employment, and welfare benefits.
- Provide information, advice and support to clients who present in crisis.

- Ensure that each person is listened to and connected with the support they seek as far as possible. A key skill will be to identify when a client presents with 'surface level issues' and when a deeper conversation is needed to identify the underlying issues.
- Undertake checks for welfare benefits and entitlements and support clients to complete claim forms, including liaison with relevant agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Support colleagues with enquiries which relate to the postholders specialist knowledge and experience e.g., mental health, benefits, housing, education, training, employment.
- When the Volunteer Lead Support Worker is unavailable, provide support to the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space volunteers in their welcoming duties.
- Support with the facilitation of form guidance, peer-support, psychoeducation, and wellness groups and workshops at the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space in collaboration with Recovery Space and Psychology teams.
- Work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.
- With the rest of the team, attend staff meetings and participate in whole staff planning and strategic development of the service in accordance with our aims and objectives.
- Provide updates and feedback to the other Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space teams to facilitate multi-disciplinary partnership working.
- Work in partnership with local professionals in statutory and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that appropriate referrals are made and to enable effective inter-agency relationships to be developed.
- Promote the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space to statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations within the borough via attendance at local partnerships and forums.
- Give presentations about the work of Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space to other organisations and stakeholders within the borough.
- Contribute positively and constructively to the development of Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space.
- Attend training, forums, and meetings to ensure knowledge remains relevant and current.
- Keep up to date with relevant legislation, policy, and practice in mental health, as well as within the field of information & advice more generally.
- Accept line management and supervision from the post holder's designated line manager and engage constructively in this process.
- Accept the need to learn from experience, to actively take part in reflective practice, to change where necessary, develop new skills, undertake training, and keep up to date with current mental health practice.
- Maintain accurate and up to date client records using online triage and database systems in accordance with service policies and procedures.
- Collect and collate statistics and qualitative feedback from users of the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Space for the purposes of effective monitoring for commissioners and other key stakeholders.

- Work within the Advice Quality Standard, the mark of quality for independent advice organisations and other relevant quality and performance standards.
- Work within all policies and procedures of the Croydon PIC Partnership, ensuring that information remains confidential and adheres to the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR).
- Maintain quality standards in accordance with Mind in Croydon policies and procedures.
- Respect and maintain personal and professional boundaries concerning relationships with service users, volunteers, and other staff.
- Act in a professional and responsible manner which does not have a negative impact on the service or the organisation as a whole and which is in accordance with the policies and procedures of Mind in Croydon.
- In addition to the tasks and duties outlined in this job description, undertake other duties as required.

Person Specification

Knowledge and Experience	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Relevant mental health, housing, social care or psychology related training or qualifications.	E	
Demonstrable evidence of equivalent learning or training.		D
Experience		
At least one year's employment in advice work, covering topics such as welfare benefits and entitlements, housing, employment, training, etc.	E	
Demonstrable lived or learned experience and understanding of mental health and related issues and difficulties or challenges.	E	
Working knowledge and experience of person-centred approaches and recovery models.		D
Experience of working in uncertain situations and with clients presenting in crisis.	E	
Experience of working in voluntary or community settings and building relationships with local groups and organisations.		D
Experience of creating, managing, and maintaining high quality records of contact and interaction with people, working within a caseload.	E	
Experience of peer support approaches and asset/strengths-based care and support systems.		D
Knowledge, Skills, and Capabilities		
Detailed and up-to-date knowledge of welfare benefits, housing, and mental health legislation	E	
Ability to write and record clear and concise case records and letters and understanding of the need for detailed case recording using a database.	E	
Ability to work alongside clients in non-directive ways – helping the person find solutions that work for them (rather than suggesting solutions).	E	
Ability to focus on and build a person's strengths and their ability to make use of the resources available to them.	E	
Ability to remain recovery-focused, working with empathy, building autonomy, empowering the person to define, lead and own their recovery.	E	

Ability to quickly build rapport with clients to create an effective, safe, and trusting relationships with people using services and with professionals in multi-disciplinary teams.	E	
Excellent numeracy, literacy, IT, and verbal communication skills.	E	
Ability to deal in an impartial, courteous, and culturally competent manner, with people from diverse backgrounds and with various levels of communication skills.	E	
Ability to make people feel heard and understood in a short space of time.	E	
Ability to give effective help to people who may be withdrawn, distressed and/or confused and to manage exposure to dealing with difficult and emotional circumstances/situations.	E	
Ability to maintain excellent standards of work under pressure.	E	
Ability to work alone on specific tasks, to prioritise tasks and time effectively, and manage workload to meet appropriate standards and performance measures.	E	
Understand the implications that a confidentiality policy has for the service.	E	
Ability to work flexibly across the team and localities and some evenings and weekends as required.	E	
Be willing to work in any other place within the community to fulfil the Service Level Agreement Requirements.	E	
Personal Attributes and Approach		
Value people and see their potential, worth and strengths.	E	
Develop effective and trusting relationships, characterised by respect – being non-judgemental and not making assumptions about the person's experiences and beliefs.	E	
Work inclusively, respecting the diversity of each person's experience, and their background or cultural context.	E	
Highly motivated and able to learn quickly, willing to seek advice appropriately and accept supervision and training as required.	E	
Share responsibility for own personal development.	E	
Use own initiative to problem solve issues as they present.	E	