

Placement Counsellor Role Description

About SARSAS

SARSAS exists to relieve the trauma and distress and help rebuild the lives of victim-survivors who live in Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BANES, who have experienced any form of sexual violence, at any point in their lives.

SARSAS also campaigns and raises awareness about rape and sexual violence to change the narrative about sexual violence and to enable survivors' voices to be heard. Partnership work with a range of agencies locally and nationally is a priority to enable social change.

SARSAS works to feminist principles: this underpins both what our service is and how it is run. Our work is guided by a trauma-informed approach which understands how traumatic experiences can impact on survivors and keeps an awareness of their effects at the forefront of our approach to support.

About you

- You will be a counselling or psychotherapy student who is in their **second** or **third** year of training.
- Your course will be accredited by a professional body such as the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), or other recognised professional body.
- You will ideally have knowledge or experience of working with victim-survivors of rape or sexual abuse.
- You will have experience of working or volunteering within health care, mental health, domestic abuse, or substance misuse settings, or equivalent experience elsewhere.
- You will have a knowledge of safeguarding legislation and experience of following organisational safeguarding processes.
- You will have had your own personal therapy.
- You will ideally have had experience of clinical supervision – group, peer or individual.
- You will be passionate supporting people who have experienced sexual violence and committed to promoting the values and ethos of SARSAS.

What we will offer you:

- 4 in person counselling / psychotherapy clients a week
- Up to 2 hours of supervision a month (depending on course requirements)
- Monthly line management with the Counselling Manager / Counselling Coordinator
- Mandatory training on safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR, Pre-Trial Therapy, Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), mental health and the body, and working with clients in distress.
- A supportive, caring and friendly working environment

Equal opportunities statement

SARSAS values diversity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community. We are actively encouraging applicants with a protected characteristic (such as people from the global majority) who are currently under-represented at SARSAS, to join our team. We are a Disability Confident Committed Employer. Our premises are wheelchair accessible.

Additional information: All placement students must undertake an enhanced DBS check.

Location: In person in our SARSAS offices in Bristol or Taunton.

Information Sessions: We are holding two information sessions about the placement role:

1) Thursday 11th July 10:00 – 11:00

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 381 985 009 553 Passcode: qg24jk

2) Tuesday 16th July 13:00 – 14:00

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 360 668 595 698 Passcode: kbHzfq

Further information: If you have any questions about this role, please email:

counselling@sarsas.org.uk.

To apply: Please complete the application form on our website and return to Laura Fitzgerald at recruitment@sarsas.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 29th July 2024** at 12:00 midnight.

Role Description

Key responsibilities:

Operational

- Work within the SARSAS team to provide a high-quality counselling service, which is ethical, safe and effective for all clients.
- Work in a person-centred way and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Appropriately use different therapeutic tools, depending on the needs of individual clients, to help survivors cope and recover from sexual violence.
- Work within and adhere to the SARSAS Counselling Framework and BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions.
- Regularly review your counselling work within clinical supervision and line management.
- Maintain confidential, up-to-date and accurate records of all counselling sessions, carefully considering the sensitive nature of this work in-particular regarding statutory investigations and court proceedings (pre-trial therapy).
- Work within the SARSAS team to ensure that all service activity is recorded and inputted appropriately onto the database.
- Facilitate the contribution of service user feedback thus ensuring that service users' voices are heard within SARSAS.
- Positively promote the service in the wider community and represent SARSAS in an appropriate way, consistent with the organisation's values and objectives.
- Liaise with referrers, other professionals and agencies as appropriate.

Supervision and professional development

- Attend SARSAS induction and mandatory training.
- Continuously commit to self-care and reflective practice including engaging with SARSAS line management and clinical supervision.
- Attend organisational meetings as required.
- Maintain up to date knowledge of relevant legislation and clinical practice guidelines to contribute to the highest professional standards of counselling practice.

Policy and procedure

- Ensure that all SARSAS policies and procedures are adhered to.
- Maintain SARSAS's Confidentiality Policy and GDPR regulation.
- Ensure that all work is clearly within Safeguarding Children and Adults guidelines as laid down in SARSAS policies.
- Uphold and work within SARSAS's Equality and Diversity Policy.
- Maintain safe working practices and spaces through working within SARSAS's Health and Safety Policy and Lone Working Policy.

Additional information

- Undertaking any other duties and responsibilities commensurate with the role.
- Work in a manner that promotes the ethos and values of SARSAS.

- Taking a positive and proactive approach to problem solving to contribute to a positive working environment.

Person specification:

Qualifications and experience	Essential	Desirable
1. Hold a student membership with British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), or other recognised professional body.	•	
2. Be working towards a counselling or equivalent qualification accredited by BACP, or other recognised professional body.	•	
3. Be approved as 'ready to practice' by your training provider.	•	
4. Experience of working with people who have experienced rape or sexual abuse.		•
5. Experience of working, or volunteering, within health care, mental health, domestic abuse, or substance misuse settings, or equivalent experience elsewhere.	•	
6. Knowledge of safeguarding legislation and experience of following organisational safeguarding procedures.	•	
7. Experience of building positive and empathic relationships with service users / clients.	•	
8. Experience of working with other agencies, signposting, or making referrals.		•
9. Experience of participating in clinical supervision.		•

Skills and abilities	Essential	Desirable
1. A sensitive, professional, and empathic approach to working within a specialist service.	•	
2. Clear and effective verbal and written communication skills.	•	
3. Good organisational and planning skills.	•	
4. Ability to keep up-to-date and accurate records.	•	

Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
1. Knowledge of the impact of rape and sexual abuse.	•	
2. Knowledge of safeguarding principles and procedures.	•	
3. Knowledge of confidentiality, GDPR guidelines and record keeping.	•	
4. Knowledge of Pre-Trial Therapy guidelines.		•
5. Knowledge of other key local agencies and services for signposting and referrals.		•

Other requirements	Essential	Desirable
1. Good I.T. skills and willingness to use SARSAS's database and remote platforms.	•	
2. A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	•	
3. Understanding and commitment to SARSAS's feminist ethos.	•	
4. Commitment to continuing professional development.	•	
5. Enthusiasm and passion for the nature of this work.	•	

6. Self-awareness and a commitment to looking after your own personal wellbeing.	•	
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