

Job Description

Job Title:	Music Therapist
Service:	Parenting and Creative Therapy Service
Contract	Fixed term – Maternity Cover until October 2027
Project:	Specialist Schools-based primarily in Camden
Reporting to:	Lead Creative Therapist – Camden Project
Salary:	£19,500 per annum (£32,500 FTE)
Working Hours	21 hours over 3 days per week

Coram is the country's oldest children's charity, established in 1739. It has a long tradition of developing innovative services to benefit children who cannot live at home. Coram Creative Therapy Service offers a number of specialist approaches including: Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Drama Therapy, Systemic Practice, Clinical Psychology, Attachment and Trauma-focused interventions. We provide therapeutic support to children in schools with low level mental health needs, relational and emotional challenges. As a service we also provide support to children and young people who are adopted or cared for by a Kinship carer.

Coram Creative Therapy Service works to empower children, young people and their families, building on their skills and emotional resilience. Using a range of therapeutic and peer-led approaches grounded in evidence, we aim to work alongside young people and families to find creative ways to help them understand and tell the stories of their lives and, where necessary, to help them to develop new stories that enable them to thrive within their communities. We have a history of working effectively with young people in schools and offer therapeutic support to Camden's specialist schools alongside our other projects. We work within very diverse communities and we consciously challenge ourselves and our practice to be inclusive and anti-racist.

We value non-verbal metaphor, using creativity as a vehicle through which the voice of the child can be heard and change can occur. As a child-led service we are proud to offer a different experience to children and young people that meets them where they are at; we thrive on finding ways to make connections with potentially harder to reach children and young people. We are a friendly, supportive and professional team.

The Coram campus is set in the heart of Bloomsbury, with great views across our historic Campus. Although a walking distance from King's Cross, Euston and Russell Square stations, our contemporary buildings are surrounded by trees and a green oasis which retains a peaceful atmosphere, providing an exceptional setting for meetings, interviews, seminars, training, and corporate events.

Purpose of the Role:

- To work for Coram as part of the schools-based creative therapy project, ensuring that those children and young people with complex social, emotional, behavioural, educational and learning needs and abilities, their families, carers & networks receive timely therapeutic support to improve outcomes for children.
- To provide music therapy in Camden schools and sometimes at our base at the Coram Campus, to children with a range of needs.

Main Duties & Responsibilities:

- To work for Coram as part of a multidisciplinary team to deliver outcome-focussed music therapy to children, young people and their families within school and community settings
- To support schools in identifying appropriate referrals for music therapy
- To deliver music therapy to children with complex social, emotional and learning needs and abilities, working with them, their families and networks including school staff to elicit change
- To work with families to help them engage and support their child's learning and development
- To deliver skill-sharing in music therapy techniques to relevant school staff and parents
- To ensure the timely completion of all pre and post evaluation paperwork
- To maintain accurate and up to date records, ensuring that notes, reports and monitoring are complete in a timely manner
- To ensure that families give informed consent and are involved in decision making and reviews
- To maintain clear communication with other professionals involved with the family whilst remaining aware of issues of confidentiality within the school setting
- Carry out other duties and responsibilities with due regard to the policies of Coram, the school and the local authority such as child protection, health and safety, equal opportunities, confidentiality, data protection (GDPR), etc.
- Ensure that risk management and safeguarding policies and procedures (documentation, reporting, supervision, training etc) are adhered to
- To ensure that music and art/play equipment is kept in a hygienic state and to replenish stocks within the allocated budget

- To operate within the guidelines of the appropriate professional body and ensure the appropriate registration to practice (HCPC, BAMT)

Other:

- Carry out other duties and responsibilities appropriate to the salary grade and the overall purpose and principles of the role
- To have a strong capacity for emotional resilience when working in stressful situations including distressing emotional dynamics and/or aggressive presentation and alongside young people and their families who face multiple stressors, ACEs, etc.
- To be able to work independently in schools and other settings, and part of the MDT when at Coram
- To travel to provide therapeutic interventions as required
- To be able to think and work with issues of difference and diversity both with your clients, the network around them and within the MDT
- To treat everyone with respect, dignity and fairness and to acknowledge diversity
- To maintain an awareness of your own and others' health and safety (including potential verbal and physical aggression from distressed young people) and to comply with Coram Group Health and Safety policy and procedures.
- To adhere to the "lone worker policy "

Person Specification

Skills & Experience

- HCPC and BAMT registered music therapist with post graduate qualification in music therapy
- Experience of delivering music therapy to children, young people & their families within a school setting (at trainee level) and understanding of the issues affecting inner London schools
- Understanding of complex family issues and how these can affect children and young people's emotional development and school life
- Ability to communicate effectively, face to face, and in writing with children/young people/parents/professionals, etc.

- Ability to relate to children and adults in an empathic manner, develop a rapport with students and their families, adapt working practice to fit client need/demographic, and deal with difficult situations and/or individuals in a calm, fair but effective manner
- Good understanding of multidisciplinary team working
- Demonstrate ability to reflect sensitively around complex issues and dynamics, making active use of relevant support networks including clinical supervision, line management, the multidisciplinary team, BAMT or continued CPD training opportunities.
- Good knowledge of referral pathways, criteria and thresholds for creative therapies
- Evidence of up-to-date knowledge of Safeguarding and child protection best practice and legislation.
- Awareness and commitment to upholding equal opportunity policies
- Ability to write succinct reports as requested for meetings with families and professional colleagues.
- A commitment to evidence-based and feedback-orientated practice and an acknowledgment of the importance of gathering outcome monitoring
- Experience of working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Desirable:

- Experience of providing skill-sharing to other professionals as part of music therapy delivery
- Experience of working therapeutically with children at a range of developmental stages and different special educational needs.
- Experience of flexible, innovative working within music therapy e.g. providing skill-sharing short term work as required; co-working with other professionals to run groups etc.

The responsibilities of the post require the post-holder to have significant unsupervised contact with pupils and their families and enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (DBS) disclosure will be required prior to appointment. This post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974