



Alzheimer Scotland

Music Therapist

Dumfries Service

Background

Dementia is a key issue facing Scotland over the coming decades. As our population ages there is projected to be a 75% increase in the numbers of people with dementia, and approximately 7,000 people in Scotland are diagnosed with dementia every year. Given the scale of this problem, a lack of understanding of dementia issues can have a serious impact on the health of people with dementia, and the mental well-being of their carers.

In response to this the Scottish Government launched the National Dementia Strategy in June 2010, and in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), developed the Promoting Excellence framework.

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are seen to be key to the delivery of the Dementia Strategy, providing services in both health and social care systems. The overall aim of the change agenda promoted by the National Dementia Strategy, is to improve outcomes and experience of people living with dementia and their families and carers, who require evidence-based clinical or targeted AHP interventions.

Purpose of the Post

Provide a specialist music therapy service for people living with dementia working across Dumfries and Galloway.

The post holder will be an independent clinician working in close collaboration with the Alzheimer Scotland staff and the multidisciplinary clinical team in NHS Dumfries and Galloway; responsible for assessment, treatment and management of a music therapy caseload within the Dumfries resource centre. They will also be responsible for the development and evaluation of the music therapy service

Advise, consult and train other professionals and families in support of clients accessing Music Therapy

Post-holder works autonomously and is responsible for responding to referrals, identifying clinical needs, developing and delivering interventions, assessing client progress, planning and managing therapeutic breaks and endings and evaluating the service. Project work may sometimes be appropriate in partnership with other professional services.

Accountability and support

The post holder will be line managed on a day-to-day basis by the respective Service Manager and clinical links to the AHP Mental Health Lead in NHS Dumfries and Galloway and AHP Consultant, Alzheimer Scotland.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Assess, analyse and contribute to clinical diagnoses in highly specialist area, using clinical judgement skills for patients with complex needs and situations, and autonomously identify their need for Music Therapy intervention, responding to and prioritising referrals.
- Act independently to plan implement and evaluate treatment through provision of music therapy groups and individual sessions.
- Maintain professional and local policies, standards and procedures at all times, ensuring use of evidence based practice.
- Take significant responsibility for specialism, its profile and the deliverance of good practice.
- The post-holder disseminates written and oral information relating to the Music Therapy service to clients, their family or carers, and other care professionals that may refer to the service or be involved in the care of clients
- Works in accordance with guidelines and policies from the Health and Care Professions Council and the British Association of Music Therapists
- A working knowledge of a wide range of instruments (keyboard, string, percussion, and wind) required to engage individual clients and groups in a therapeutic relationship. Knowledge of carrying out maintenance and repairs of instruments (i.e. replacing a string). Hygiene of instruments maintained
- Creating a primarily non-verbal therapeutic relationship through music. This requires exceptional observational skills and high levels of attunement. Develop a working knowledge and insight into the work of Alzheimer Scotland as a national charity for people with dementia, their families and carers.
- Be involved in induction, regular support and supervision and work at the enhanced level of promoting excellence
- Prepare and submit two reports. The first to be submitted to Alzheimer Scotland as a reflective piece recording the experience and value of music therapy. A second report will form a joint publication between all stakeholders.

Pattern of hours

Part time 14 hours over two days for 12 months paid to the equivalent of a band 6 agenda for change pay scale/Alzheimer Scotland scale 27-30

The post holder will be subject to a criminal conviction check through Disclosure Scotland

This job description is open to review by the organisation at any time and was last revised in September 2014.

Essential	Desirable
An appreciation and understanding of dementia and current Scottish government policy underpinning dementia strategy in Scotland.	Competence in using computer software.
Strong knowledge and understanding of qualitative research.	Experience in project management.
Understanding of how to conduct qualitative interviews.	Influencing skills.
Able to be self aware and understand the importance of this skill when conducting qualitative interviews.	Experience and or an appreciation of working with a range of stakeholders.
Excellent written and oral communication skills.	
Ability to work to tight deadlines.	
Able to work independently, be self motivated and responsive to supervision and guidance.	