

JOB DESCRIPTION
Mental Health Adviser
Vacancy Ref: A2906

Job Title:	Mental Health Adviser	Present Grade:	7
Department/College:	Student and Education Services		
Directly responsible to:	Head of Counselling and Mental Health Service		
Location:	University House, Lancaster University		
Supervisory responsibility for:	College Wellbeing Officers (if acting as Clinical Supervisor)		
Other contacts			
Internal: Senior Management, Counselling and Mental Health Service (SES), other Divisional teams such as Registry, Disability, College Officers, academic and professional services staff within Faculties and Departments, Chaplains, Security/Porters, Health Centre, Accommodation, Students' Union.			
External: NHS support services including Complex Care and Treatment Team, Start Team, the Crisis and home Treatment Team, Early Intervention, Eating Disorder Service, Mindsmatters, GPs, Police, Parents and Families.			
<u>Job Summary</u>			
<p>The post holder will be required to work across the full spectrum of mental health difficulties to ensure students obtain the appropriate assessment, treatment, support and adjustments to enable them to successfully complete their studies.</p> <p>The role requires a practitioner who is willing and able to adapt their therapeutic skills to deliver short-term therapy interventions to students.</p> <p>The post holder will be required to work with students with mental health conditions ranging from moderate to severe and enduring, and frequently with complex needs. The role involves working within a busy multi-disciplinary team that is subject to high demand across the University. The working environment is often unpredictable and fast paced and so requires a high level of personal and professional resilience.</p> <p>The post holder will be required to adapt their clinical skills and experience to working within the specific organisational context of Higher Education. To work with students to determine when there might be a need to prioritise treatment over current continuation of studies, in accordance with university policies eg. when students need to take a break in study or become subject to Fitness to Study procedures.</p> <p>The post holder will also be required to work with wider University colleagues in Colleges, Professional Services and Departments/Faculties in order to act in an advisory capacity for staff supporting student mental health/emotional distress. This may include the provision of training and responding, often at short notice to student mental health concerns/crisis intervention.</p>			
<u>Main Clinical Duties</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To offer a standardised mental health assessment to all people referred to the service and to collaboratively determine the most appropriate intervention, including whether an urgent response is required and where further support would best be offered.			

- To manage the risks to self and others, when there may be no other mental health professional support available.
- To provide short-term therapeutic interventions to help students manage common mental health difficulties and refer to external organisations where appropriate.
- To work autonomously, carrying and managing a caseload, where the nature of the work can be rapid and unpredictable, utilizing time limited evidenced based interventions for a wide range of mental health difficulties.
- To advise students regarding reasonable adjustments to study arrangements, access to Disability support services and Disabled Students Allowance, where appropriate, including applicants to the University. To advise applicants on support available at the University and transfer of care prior to commencing study.
- To maintain accurate contemporaneous electronic records regarding clinical activity on all service users in accordance with University policies and guidance from professional bodies, including clinical assessment with clear identification of problems and plan of care.
- To liaise with students, health professionals and those involved in their care as appropriate. To be responsible for providing an informed opinion and/or verifying students mitigating circumstances to relevant departments, taking part in case conferences where mental health difficulties are prominent.
- To act in an advisory and supportive capacity to all officers of the university on issues relating to mental health, acting as a contact and liaison point, particularly in relation to the management and containment of student mental health crisis.
- To deliver presentations, workshops, case discussions and training to wider University colleagues to inform and support University staff in their work with the student population, who often present to any University member of staff to disclose and seek support for emotional difficulties.
- To actively participate in monthly clinical supervision in order to ensure competence, fitness to practice and to comply with professional standards. To actively participate in team meetings, 1:1 line management meetings and live supervision/observed practice with line manager to review workload demands and service provision.
- To participate in the Universities and professional bodies Continuing Personal Development opportunities to ensure increased knowledge base, self-awareness and enhanced clinical skills and to provide supervision/mentorship to students on professional placements, if required.

Miscellaneous

- This job description is an outline of the main duties of the post. The post holder will be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the grade in line with service developments as directed by Service Managers.
- The post holder will be required to give his/her whole time to the duties of the post & no outside work may be undertaken except with the permission of the Head of Service and Head of Colleges and Student Life.

Disclosure and Barring Service Criminal Records (DBS) Check

- The post is subject to a DBS check.

Probationary Period

- The post is subject to confirmation of an initial probationary period of 12 months.

