

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title:	Children & Youth Practitioner
Reporting to:	Head of Children and Youth Services
Location:	Based in Belfast, with regular travel across Northern Ireland
Salary:	£26,500
Car Allowance:	Mileage allowance per Brain Injury Matters current rate
Pension:	5% employer contribution on completion of probationary period
Holiday Entitlement:	Generous leave entitlement - 25 days annual leave plus 11 statutory days Birthday day off Hybrid home/office working pattern Commitment to varied career development opportunities to support continuous professional development Confidential online counselling service for staff Free car parking at Brain Injury Matters
Contract & Working Hours:	35 hours per week Monday to Saturday (<i>due to the nature of the post, occasional evening and weekend working will be applicable</i>).

(Fixed term contract for four months with a view to extension depending on funding)

Brain Injury Matters (NI) was established in 2013 as an independent regional third sector organisation supporting, promoting and empowering those individuals and families affected by acquired brain injury.

Brain Injury Matters has developed a reputation for developing and delivering a range of innovative programmes and initiatives led by a diverse team of professionals.

Over the next number of years, we will further develop an innovative and exciting service that meets the future needs of families, which we would like you to be part of as we grow and develop our service further.

The Children and Youth Service is designed and dedicated to empower families to support children and young people who have sustained an acquired brain injury throughout Northern Ireland.

We recognise that the whole family system is affected when a child or young person sustains an ABI. Our service works with the whole family unit to enable everyone to better manage the impact of ABI in daily life. Evidence-based practice forms the foundation of all our work.

Services include:

Family Based Interventions

Individual work with children, young people and their families, delivered on a regional basis in the family's home, Brain Injury Matters, community venue or online.

Regional social events

Regional events will provide young people, siblings and their families with fun activities which facilitate connection and interaction.

Facebook/META: Online private support group for families

Families can access a variety of resources, activities and information documents via the Facebook/META private online support group. Families are also able to communicate with others in the private BIM group.

Parent and Carer Empowerment Group (P&CEG):

The Parent and Carer Empowerment group brings together parents and carers of children and young people affected by acquired brain injury to build connections, network, feel understood and share their knowledge and experiences to help each other.

Overall Job Purpose:

As a key member of the Children and Youth Service, you will be responsible for the support, enhancement and the development of young people and their families who have sustained an acquired brain injury. You will develop, design and facilitate programmes while providing family-based support to young people and their families.

You will have an understanding of the social, emotional and psychological support needs of children and families affected by brain injury to help design and develop intervention strategies that can support personal growth after brain injury, working alongside community professionals across the brain injury sector.

You will work in partnership with the wider Brain Injury Matters team as we embark on an exciting development of the Children and Youth Service, creating new opportunities for families affected by brain injury.

Main Duties

Social & Emotional:

- To design support plans to meet the social and emotional support needs of young people and their families and assist in the formulation and delivery of support plans under the supervision of the Head of Service.
- To deliver one to one therapeutic support to children, young people with ABI and their families in their home, online or via telephone.
- To design and develop the running of a mentoring programme for young people 13-18 with ABI.
- To attend and contribute to steering group meetings.
- To design, co-ordinate and deliver individual and group programmes designed to enhance skills and promote personal development in service users.

- Monitor and review service user progress, with the provision of service user reports as appropriate.
- To liaise with other service personnel and relevant agencies involved in the support of the person.
- Establish goals on an individual and group basis and support the service user to achieve these.
- To work collaboratively with Brain Injury Matters staff.
- Develop and maintain links with key agencies and service providers in the local communities.
- To assist in the co-ordination and running of social and reactional activities, groups and workshops as appropriate.
- To participate in risk assessments, both service user focused and environmental, to ensure safeguarding protocols and policies are maintained and followed.
- To assist in the ongoing development of evidence-based support programmes in collaboration with other youth and adult programme staff.

Teaching, training and supervision

- To develop skills and competences that assist in the delivery of current duties.
- To contribute to the training and support of other staff as appropriate.
- Participate in meetings, conferences and courses.

Service Development & Evaluation

- To assist in the design and implementation of the project evaluation.
- To contribute to the design and development of new projects.
- To undertake service audit as delegated by the Head of Service and CEO.
- To undertake searches of evidence-based literature and research to assist the project team in evidence-based practice.
- To demonstrate a commitment to the empowerment of service users and a strong interest in co-production and promotion of people's rights.
- To actively engage service users and their families in service planning and project evaluation.
- To participate in yearly appraisal.

General

- To contribute to the development and maintenance of the highest professional standards of practice, through active participation in internal and external CPD training and development programmes, in consultation with the post-holder's manager.
- To maintain the highest standards of record keeping and report writing in accordance with professional codes of practice and Brain Injury Matters policies and procedures.
- To prepare educational materials and visual aids as required.
- To undertake specific administrative duties as required including appropriate record-keeping.
- Ensure that any unusual behaviour or untoward incidents, complaints and accidents are reported and recorded.
- To manage workload and establish priorities.
- The organisations' procedures are adhered to in relation to fire safety, health & safety etc.
- To carry out any other duties as specified by the Head of Service.

To be noted:

- 1 The job description is not definitive and may be amended to meet changing needs of the project and Brain Injury Matters (NI).
- 2 If appointed you will be required to produce evidence of qualifications and evidence that you are legally entitled to live and work in the UK.

Essential	Desirable	Method of assessment
<p>Qualifications</p> <p>1. Hold a 3rd level qualification in Health & Social Care or allied professions such as Social Work, Psychology, Teaching - Primary/Post primary, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language therapy, Nursing, Creative therapy.</p> <p>Or at least 5-years' experience working with children, young people and their families affected by disability, and/or brain injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant post graduate qualification e.g. – Psychology, Behavioural Science, ASD, SLT, Social Care etc.• Evidence of relevant courses/components undertaken regarding child development, ABI, Behaviour management etc.	Application form

<p>Experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have at least 2 years' experience of working with children, young people/young adults with a disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of work with children and young people with cognitive impairment, challenging behaviour and additional complex health needs. • Experience in the delivery of psycho-educational, mentoring and skills development programmes. • Experience of group work. 	<p>Application form</p>
<p>Skills, Knowledge and Abilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of a range of challenges relating to acquired brain injury. 2. Ability to work within professional codes of ethics. 3. Ability to demonstrate excellent reasoning and problem-solving skills. 4. Knowledge and experience of audit and monitoring. 5. Demonstrate the ability to work within evidence-based practice guidelines. 6. Excellent organisational and self-motivational qualities. 7. Excellent literacy and numeracy skills and working knowledge of Microsoft Office. <p>Ability to work under pressure and to stay calm in stressful situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the voluntary sector. • To be aware of the various other support services available to service users in their local area. 	<p>At interview</p>
<p>Other Requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personally, and professionally responsible. 2. A commitment to teamwork and to the values of Brain Injury Matters. 3. A commitment to equal opportunities, supporting, empowering and advocating for your colleagues. 		<p>Application form</p>

<p>4. Ability to visit community settings and family homes independently and alongside other staff as required.</p> <p>5. Willingness to work occasional evenings and weekends according to the needs of the service.</p> <p>6. Driving license and access to a car.</p> <p><i>* Criteria will be waived in the case of applicants whose disability prohibits driving but who have access to a form of transport approved which will permit them to carry out the duties required for the post. *</i></p>		
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Note

The nature of the job will change over time as the needs of the business change and we develop the Children and Youth Service further.

It is a requirement of the jobholder to contribute to the development of the role, reflecting these changing needs.

The job requires a considerable degree of commitment, flexibility and adaptability on the part of the jobholder to meet quality standards and work deadlines.