

LINDEN LODGE SCHOOL

Job Description



**Linden Lodge
School**

A Specialist Sensory & Physical College

STATUS

Job Title: Physiotherapy Assistant
Accountable to: Lead Physiotherapist
Grade: Agenda for Change NHS Band 3

CONTEXT

About the school

Linden Lodge School provides a high-quality educational experience for visually impaired pupils, including those who are multi-disabled visually impaired and deafblindness.

We are recognised as a specialist Regional Centre for children aged between two and nineteen. The school also supports pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Pupils attend the school on a day or residential basis.

Therapy provision at Linden Lodge

Therapists will work as part of a newly formed multi-disciplinary therapy team, which will be well-integrated with the school to provide specialist therapeutic input and support to the children at Linden Lodge. The school is set up by way of distinct learning units or departments, and each therapist's caseload will be formed as much as possible in line with these departments, with additional responsibilities depending on experience and professional development priorities (e.g. postural management, equipment provision, social communication, sensory based strategies etc). physiotherapy sessions will primarily take place at the school, integrated into the child or young person's school day in order to support and enhance their learning and functional skill development.

However, for many of the children and young people, provision of physiotherapy will also take part in their home or the wider community in order to provide real-life opportunities to develop independence and to promote participation. Therapists will benefit from clinical professional leadership, peer support and trans-interdisciplinary working, and the many opportunities for professional development and training the school has to offer.

Job Purpose

To work as part of the integrated, multi-disciplinary therapy team at Linden Lodge School.

To assist and support the therapy team in the delivery of child centred care in a variety of settings. To work alongside qualified therapists to ensure, efficient running of the department and to support delivery of service intervention with children and their families.

While all clinical work will be directed by a qualified member of staff the role requires the ability to work independently, carrying out agreed programmes of intervention. Administrative duties to support the service include tasks such as; General organisation of work areas, filing, completing spreadsheets, forms and contributing to the creation of standardised written advice for families. Patient related work includes; Working with Physiotherapists to carry out programmes of advice, making minor alterations to equipment and having the ability to feedback all relevant information to qualified Therapists.

Assistance with Therapy Provision

- Participate in the baseline assessment of new student's and meet appropriate interventions to optimise function and independence.
- Agree individualised objectives and provide direct input to maximise and promote function and independence.
- Use extensive experience and learnt knowledge to arrange and facilitate clinics.
- Organise and facilitate group and 1:1 sessions, working towards agreed objectives in discussion with the Physiotherapists, using your extensive knowledge and experience to feedback to the Therapists on progress and raise queries in a timely manner.
- Follow and implement recommendations which are suitable for incorporation into the student's education or care programmes- promoting integration and generalisation of therapy programmes and guidelines set by the Physiotherapists.
- Monitor and feedback to the Therapists ideas and concerns relating to specialised equipment including (but not limited to) toileting & bathing equipment, seating, slings, mobility and standing equipment.
- Undertake basic equipment alterations to meet the changing needs of the students within the limitations of competencies agreed with the Therapy Leads.
- Integrate agreed programmes and guidelines to optimise the use and therefore the benefits for the pupils of the provided specialist equipment.
- Support and monitor the implementation of recommendations- using experience to answer queries and feeding back concerns raised by the support staff facilitating the use of the recommendations to the Physiotherapist as necessary.
- Contribute to research or audit projects, as appropriate.
- Maintain all appropriate records to the required standards as set out by the department/school
- Co-ordinate the servicing of all necessary special equipment as required by the Therapy Leads.
- Liaise and co-ordinate with external agencies to co-ordinate external services to support the wider therapy needs of the Linden Lodge cohort as agreed with the Lead Physiotherapist.
- Liaise with key staff across site with regards students', progress and health needs.
- To maintain excellent communication with all departments across the organisation and other external contacts

In Class Interventions

- Support provision of therapy programs within class or 1 to 1 blocks under the supervision of a physiotherapist
- Support use of and training for physiotherapy equipment under the supervision and guidance of a physiotherapist
- Support communication between classroom setting and physiotherapy team.
- Support the use of and training for physiotherapy resources under the supervision and guidance of a physiotherapist
- Support with hydrotherapy and rebound therapy as directed by physio lead.

Management and Supervision

- Feedback to the therapy teams with regards any intervention.
- Seeking supervision in addition to formal when necessary.
- To provide mentoring and training to the less experienced members of the team (technician and/or qualified staff as appropriate).
- To mentor to help orientate newer team members during their induction into the team.

<i>Safeguarding</i>	<p>Be fully aware of and understand the duties and responsibilities arising from the Children’s Act and Working Together in relation to child protection and safeguarding children and young people as this applies to the worker’s role within the organisation</p> <p>Be fully aware of the principles of safeguarding as they apply to vulnerable adults to the workers role</p> <p>Ensure that the worker’s line manager is made aware and kept fully informed of any concerns which the worker may have in relation to safeguarding and/or child protection</p>
<i>Leadership</i>	To work under overall supervision of the Headteacher
<i>CPD</i>	Commitment to own continued professional development and to undertake mandatory training as required
<i>Service and Self Review</i>	Participate in the School’s Self Review of performance Review methods of effective teaching and learning
<i>Behaviour / Risk Management</i>	Work with other colleagues to ensure safety of both workers and users at all times

<i>Supporting other colleagues</i>	Work with and support other colleagues to ensure the smooth and effective running of the School
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GENERAL DETAILS

The postholder will be required to meet the needs of all students effectively by working in partnership with other disciplines and have an awareness of the role they can play in delivering an effective therapy provision.

REVIEW

This job description does NOT define all the duties and responsibilities commensurate with the post. As such, it will be reviewed at the end of the academic year or earlier if necessary and may be amended at any time after consultation with you

**Person Specification
Physiotherapy Assistant**

Education and Training			
Essential Criteria		Desirable Criteria	
NVQ III in relevant subject or equivalent experience (evidenced by completion of agreed Linden Lodge Therapy led competency frameworks).		Foundation degree in Health and Social Care.	
		Rebound Therapy Practitioner Level 2	
Achievements and Experience			
Essential Criteria		Desirable Criteria	
Extensive, up-to-date experience supporting OT and physiotherapy intervention		Experience of mentoring team members	
Extensive, up-to-date experience working with young people with learning disabilities.			
Knowledge and experience supporting children and young people with sensory impairment			
Extensive up-to-date experience supporting the provision of OT and physio in managing a neurodevelopmental/ complex needs caseload			
Experience in an education/ residential setting			
Experience of teaching and demonstrating OT and physio prescribed programmes and guidelines			
Knowledge and experience supporting students in specialist equipment			
Experience of co-ordinating clinics (both in-house and in collaboration with visiting therapists)			
Experience in a multi-disciplinary team			
Working knowledge and basic understanding of anatomy, normal development and sensory integration			
Demonstrate knowledge of Equality, Diversity and equal opportunities			

Skills & Abilities			
Essential Criteria		Desirable Criteria	
Confident to work independently			
Understanding of the role of a Physiotherapist			
Understanding of SEN provision.			
The ability to work in a team.			
Ability to be adaptable in approach			
A caring and encouraging attitude.			
Good communication skills both written and oral.			
The ability to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds.			
Able to organise time effectively and work towards deadlines			
Able to work on own initiative			
Excellent interpersonal skills / team member			
Confident to seek support where required			
Able to remain professional in challenging and/or sensitive situations			
Confident to undertake appropriate tasks independently			
Highly motivate to develop knowledge and skills to meet the changing needs of the Young Epilepsy cohort as directed by the Lead Physiotherapist.			