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JOB DESCRIPTION

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| **JOB DETAILS** | |
| **Job Title** | Lead Orthoptist for Community and vision screening. |
| **Reports to** | Head Orthoptist |
| **Band (Subject to Matching)** | Band 7 |
| **Department/Directorate** | Orthoptic Department / Surgical Services |

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| **JOB PURPOSE** |
| * To lead and develop the Paediatric Vision Screening service * To supervise and train Vision Screening Team members. * Provide highly specialist assessment, diagnosis, treatment and advice to patients and their carers. The specialist area is paediatric vision screening and requires the post-holder to work in advanced clinical practice. * To lead and develop community orthoptic services. * To lead and develop audit and research opportunities for the orthoptic department. * To provide comprehensive, high quality Orthoptic services as an autonomous practitioner and to work as an effective member of the cross-site Orthoptic team in the assessment, diagnosis and management of patients with ocular motility disorders and amblyopia;to develop and monitor effective treatment plans using specialist skills based on clinical and analytical reasoning and using evidence based practice * Be part of an interdependent, multidisciplinary team ensuring optimal patient care.   **K** |
| **KEY RESULT AREAS/PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| * To lead and develop the Exeter, Mid and East Devon paediatric Vision Screening Service * To provide high quality, comprehensive and highly specialised clinical services as a highly specialised autonomous practitioner within the extended role of the Orthoptist. * Integrate into the multi-disciplinary Ophthalmology Team informing other professionals of Orthoptic findings and work as part of a team to maximise the patients potential * Audit Vision Screening service to ensure best possible practice is followed, according to up to date research. * Develop vision screening departmental protocols and patient information leaflet. * To monitor statistics, regarding attendance, waiting times and referral patterns for primary vision screening and community orthoptic services. * Work with the Head Orthoptist in the future planning and development of the Orthoptic Service in line with patient need and Trust Wide developments * Train and mentor Vision Screening team. * Providing leadership, development and governance in relation to the clinical area and supporting other clinicians regarding patient treatment and management. * To co ordinate and develop clinical audit and research opportunities for the orthoptic department. |
| **KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS** |
| The post holder is required to deal effectively with staff of all levels throughout the Trust as and when they encounter on a day to day basis  In addition the post holder will deal with the wider healthcare community, external organisations and the public.  This will include verbal, written and electronic media.  Of particular importance are working relationships with:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Internal to the Trust** | **External to the Trust** | | * Line Manager * Orthoptists * Orthoptic Assistants * Other departmental clinical and admin staff | * ROVI * Visiting Professionals * GP’s and other practice staff * School staff * Local Optometrists * Patients * Relatives and Carers | | * RDUH staff at all levels in all departments * Sight support service |  | |  |  | |  |  | |

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| **ORGANISATIONAL CHART** |
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| **FREEDOM TO ACT** |
| * Act as Advanced Practitioner leading the Paediatric Orthoptic Vision Screening Service providing leadership, and support, in relation to clinical care to orthoptists and orthoptic assistants / vision screening team. * To work as an advanced practitioner in the community/ hospital setting (as appropriate) without immediate supervision. * Work within codes of practice, professional guidelines broad occupational policies and organisational standards of practice. * Be professionally accountable for all aspects of your own work, within the context of an autonomous practitioner. * Initiate and lead specific projects as required. |
| **COMMUNICATION/RELATIONSHIP SKILLS** |
| * Ensure effective communication takes place at all times, taking a team approach to patient care and service needs. * Lead and attend multidisciplinary meetings to ensure that there is an integrated approach that benefits patient’s overall care plan. * Be proactive in giving talks/demonstrations regarding your work to colleagues and others, including those in primary care. * Write comprehensive reports regarding patient assessment, treatment outcomes and recommendations to GPs, consultants, other healthcare colleagues and other members of the multidisciplinary team. * Read and interpret a range of patient medical, medication, history and care plans. * Read and interpret a range of policy and guidance, both local and national. * Provide information, advice and clinical expertise to team members and managers. * Liaise closely with all members of the primary health care team, school staff and other agencies in all matters regarding patients care, discharge and future care management. * Work with patients referred with complex communication and cognitive problems e.g. stroke. * Communicates highly sensitive and highly complex information e.g. prognosis which impacts on patients life / work * Obtain patient consent and work within a legal framework with patients who lack capacity to consent to treat |
| **ANALYTICAL/JUDGEMENTAL SKILLS** |
| * Undertake a comprehensive, holistic highly specialist clinical assessment of patients presenting with highly complex multifactorial problems using advanced analytical and investigative skills and clinical reasoning. * Use clinical judgment to access further diagnostics, treatment etc. * Interpret highly complex information e.g. medical notes and clinical findings. * To provide advanced specialist advice and second clinical opinion to other colleagues e.g. GPs. * To actively monitor clinical waiting times to meet patient need and Trust priorities. * Work in collaboration with other teams in order to support a consistent and equitable service across the Trust. * Participate in the operational planning and implementation of policy and service development within the team, helping to set priorities. * Support clinical changes that contribute to the development of patient pathways. * Propose changes to improve practice in line with local and national guidelines. * Undertake risk assessment, using clinical judgement and provide accurate feedback to the team as necessary e.g. in relation to lone working. * Apply clinical reasoning skills after assessment to decide appropriate treatment plan and approach. |
| **PLANNING/ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS** |
| * Lead responsibility for the planning, development , implementation and of all aspects of governance of the Vision Screening Programme; ensuring all children are screened in a timely manner parents are fully notified when screening will take place and are given the opportunity to opt out. To ensure that parents receive results from screening and referrals are followed up in an appropriate time frame. It will also include working alongside the Head Orthoptist to advance and improve the Vision Screening Programme both on and off site. * Lead responsibility for the planning, development, implementation and of all aspects community orthoptic clinics, ensuring the delivery of the most efficient service within the resources available to meet patients needs. * Manage an individual caseload of highly complex patients effectively and efficiently. * Lead and take part in group sessions * Plan, organize and prioritize own work load and guide the work of support workers and junior staff as appropriate. * Work with the team to deliver the most effective service within the resources available to meet patient needs * Exercise good personal time management, punctuality and consistent, reliable attendance * Co-ordinate the service to ensure timely patient appointments * To be involved in longer term strategic planning in area of expertise. |
| **PATIENT/CLIENT CARE** |
| * To work as an Advanced Practitioner Specialising in Paediatric Orthoptic Vision Screening and provide advice to colleagues working within this Specialty. * Diagnose complex Orthoptic conditions. * Manage highly complex caseload and treatment programmes using advanced clinical reasoning to a high standard expected of an experienced clinician. * Prioritise, assess and treat highly complex patients referred, taking an evidence-based and reflective practice approach. * Identify specific problems/needs and formulate highly specialist treatment plans in partnership with the patient and others. * Evaluate patient care in the specialty/ specialties and be proactive in developing services to meet national and local standards. * Evaluate patient/user progress, and modify treatment/input if required. * Instil a range of pharmaceutical eye drops into patient’s eyes where necessary. To determine appropriate strength of drops. Advise patients/parents of potential risks, side effects and precautions.  Undertake single-handed clinics at peripheral hospitals as required.Discuss and advise surgical options with the surgeon.  * Identify pre-and post-operative risks and discuss surgical and non-surgical options with patient/parent/ophthalmologist. The Orthoptist’s role is to take the lead in a highly complex discussion regarding the timing of surgery and the surgical technique. This requires a high level of knowledge, theory and experience. * Be professionally accountable for all aspects of own work, within the context of an autonomous practitioner guided by Orthoptic professional practice guidelines and rules of professional conduct. * Adhere to all professional standards of practice and organizational policies and procedures. * **Lead the Vision Screening Programme**. * To be responsible for ensuring the vision screening programme consistently meets national standards, guidelines and targets. To inform the Head Orthoptist immediately if it fails to meet these standards. * To support and liaise with the orthoptists, optometrists and paediatric consultant ophthalmologists, to ensure children are referred following correct pathways and gain appropriate treatment. * To be responsible for writing and updating screening pathways. * To liaise with the local council, Devon County Council and Public Health to gain up to date admissions data in a timely manner to ensure all children eligible are screened within the academic year. * To liaise with Public Health to ensure up to date communication regarding the service is distributed to schools. * To liaise with schools to ensure staff understand the vision screening programme and what is required of them. * To ensure all children with Special Educational Needs and learning disability receive an orthoptic assessment in lieu of screening, as per BIOS guidelines * To regularly review the orthoptic paediatric and paediatric vision screening patient information letters and leaflets. |
| **POLICY/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT** |
| * To develop and regularly review vision screening protocols and policies and implement changes * Keep up to date with professional and related Healthcare developments in liaison with area professional lead and Trust Head of Profession and other colleagues. * Support the team to keep updated in developments in the NHS care within the specialty. * Identify opportunities to improve the service, taking account of resources available, discussing your ideas with colleagues and managers. * Participate in the operational planning and implementation of policy and service development within the specialty in your area and coordinating across organisational and professional boundaries. * Keep up to date with professional and Orthoptic related developments in practice. * Attend and contribute to Orthoptic Departmental meetings e.g. present new ideas, improvements in practice, development of the service and teaching. * Propose changes to improve practice in line with local and national guidelines. * Propose and lead on clinical changes that contribute to the development of patient pathways to ensure the service meets recommended local and national guidelines. * Be aware of and follow the Health and Safety at Work Act and local/national guidelines, reporting any incidents using the correct procedures. * Report any accidents/ untoward incidents/ near misses to self, patients or carers to the manager in accordance with Trust policy. * Adhere to all professional standards of practice and organizational policies and procedures. |
| **FINANCIAL/PHYSICAL RESOURCES** |
| * Support the efficient use of resources including; maintaining stocks and supplies and ordering equipment & resources as agreed or directed. * Ensure safe and efficient use of stock and equipment including; ensuring equipment is checked appropriately and any defects reported * Utilises specialist equipment to provide treatment, where required. * Demonstrate and instruct the use of equipment to ensure safety. * To ensure that all test equipment is used correctly. Adequately maintained and stored away securely at the end of the session * To ensure all equipment is cleaned regularly according to department procedures * To comply with security arrangements in clinics and school, ensuring patient records are locked away and clinics secure |
| **HUMAN RESOURCES** |
| * Work collaboratively with the manager to ensure training and continuing professional development for all team members and planning for the appropriate workforce. * Participate in recruitment of staff * Oversee and supervise the work performed by the vision screening assistants. * Participate in clinical supervision as supervisor and supervisee. * Participate in staff appraisal as an appraisee and appraiser. * Mentor and provide clinical supervision to newly qualified and junior staff * Supervise vision screening team * Actively share areas of knowledge and experience both formally and informally. * Identify own training and development needs and undertake appropriate training/education as required including statutory and mandatory training. * Identify training needs of other team members. * To take an active part in clinical placements in the department including work experience students, Optometry students, Medical Students, GP’s, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Paediatricians and Ophthalmologists. * Ensure that HCPC registration is maintained and evidenced to the manager. * Participate in and be proactive in teaching at training sessions for staff and other agencies. * Work with the manager to ensure clinical cover across the locality is maintained especially at times of service pressure. |
| **INFORMATION RESOURCES** |
| * Contribute to the collection of statistical data in order to monitor and develop team and vision screening service activity. * To regularly audit the vision screening programme and participate in national audits. To present audit data to Public Health. To take appropriate action to implement audit requirements. * To develop robust systems to collect statistical data to support clinical audits for the orthoptic department. * Maintain accurate and timely patient records using agreed standard formats. * To contribute to a comprehensive, quality Orthoptic assessment service. * Monitor and evaluate the information available and to produce a structured audit report based on that information specifically an annual vision screening audit report. |
| **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** |
| * Maintain an up to date knowledge of all areas of clinical practice using a variety of CPD methods and to maintain a CPD portfolio. * Take a role in clinical development e.g. journal clubs, special interest groups, peer review groups and other activities to share and expand specialist knowledge across the service. * To contribute to the departments agenda for effective clinical governance with the aim of improving aspects of clinical outcome. * To initiate and participate in clinical audits including participation in local, regional and national audits, specifically vision screening outcomes. * To co ordinate clinical audits and research for the orthoptic department. * To work with the trusts research and development team to ensure the orthoptic department is participating in relevant studies. |
| **PHYSICAL SKILLS** |
| A range of clinical skills including; dexterity and accuracy for testing of patients visual ability   * Ability to travel to other locations as required meeting time constraints * Assess and demonstrate the safe use of clinical equipment. * Standard Computer skills to maintain patient records, clinical audit, support clinical practice, e mail, presentations and order equipment etc. * Manual Handling of patients (e.g. transferring from wheelchair to clinical chair). This will include patients with complex and specialist needs*.* * Use of Orthoptic/Ophthalmology equipment which requires good hand-eye coordination and accuracy.  To undertake pre and post-operative measurements of motility defects. Significant manual dexterity and speed will be required to ensure accurate results especially in infants having eye surgery. Surgery will be based on the Orthoptic measurements.To assist surgeon in post-operative adjustable suture techniques. This requires accurate measurement to assist the surgeon with ocular alignment whilst the patient is under local anaesthesia. |
| **PHYSICAL EFFORT** |
| * Daily work involves frequent sitting/standing, walking, moving equipment and manual handling. * Driving to meet the requirements of the post * Moving & handling of patients and equipment in relation to assessment and treatment (wheelchairs and manual handling aids) following ergonomic risk assessment as per statutory training and service risk assessments. * Frequent VDU use * Patient examination regularly requires uncomfortable working positions e.g. constantly leaning over and forwards, kneeling, crouching, squatting, working whilst maintaining awkward posture in restricted positions or limited space frequently |
| **MENTAL EFFORT** |
| * All shifts require continual concentration and significant mental effort to ensure correct investigation, diagnosis and management of patients. * Manage competing demands of providing services on a daily basis and developing a clinical area. * Read, decipher and interpret patient information. * Read and decipher lengthy documents, summarising for other staff as appropriate. * Work pattern is unpredictable and subject to frequent interruptions from staff and patients during the course of a clinical session * Frequent mental effort in assessment and treatment programmes. * Long periods of concentration, particularly when using a VDU. * Identify strategies to motivate patients to comply with their treatment plan. * Concentration required for driving to community locations. |
| **EMOTIONAL EFFORT** |
| * The post holder is required to be professional in all situations some of which are emotionally challenging and complex * Work with patients/service users and carers who occasionally have a poor/life limiting prognosis, including the communication of distressing news. * Work with patients in the aftermath of bad news. * Work with patients with mental health problems or occasional challenging behaviour.  To work with mentally and physically disabled patients some of whom will present with very challenging behaviour e.g. physically / verbally abusive. |
| **WORKING CONDITIONS** |
| * Lone working as required in accordance with Trust policy and procedures. * Occasional contact with body fluids, infection and unpleasant smells. * There may be exposure to fleas, lice, childhood illnesses, body fluids etc * Maintain up to date Infection Control knowledge and use appropriate personal protective equipment * Dispose of clinical waste and personal protective equipment appropriately |
| **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| Take part in regular performance appraisal.  Undertake any training required in order to maintain competency including mandatory training, e.g. Manual Handling  Contribute to and work within a safe working environment  You are expected to comply with Trust Infection Control Policies and conduct him/herself at all times in such a manner as to minimise the risk of healthcare associated infection  As an employee of the Trust, it is a contractual duty that you abide by any relevant code of professional conduct and/or practice applicable to you. A breach of this requirement may result in action being taken against you (in accordance with the Trust’s disciplinary policy) up to and including dismissal.  You must also take responsibility for your workplace health and wellbeing:   * When required, gain support from Occupational Health, Human Resources or other sources. * Familiarise yourself with the health and wellbeing support available from policies and/or Occupational Health. * Follow the Trust’s health and wellbeing vision of healthy body, healthy mind, healthy you. * Undertake a Display Screen Equipment assessment (DES) if appropriate to role. |
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| **DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS – delete section if not applicable** |
| This post has been identified as involving access to vulnerable adults and/or children and in line with Trust policy successful applicants will be required to undertake a Disclosure & Barring Service Disclosure Check. |
| **GENERAL** |
| This is a description of the job as it is now. We periodically examine employees' job descriptions and update them to ensure that they reflect the job as it is then being performed, or to incorporate any changes being proposed. This procedure is conducted by the manager in consultation with the jobholder. You will, therefore, be expected to participate fully in such discussions. We aim to reach agreement on reasonable changes, but if agreement is not possible, we reserve the right to insist on changes to your job description after consultation with you.  Everyone within the Trust has a responsibility for, and is committed to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults, children and young people and for ensuring that they are protected from harm, ensuring that the Trusts Child Protection and Safeguarding Adult policies and procedures are promoted and adhered to by all members of staff.  Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust continue to develop our long standing partnership with a view to becoming a single integrated organisation across Eastern and Northern Devon. Working together gives us the opportunity to offer unique and varied careers across our services combining the RD&E’s track record of excellence in research, teaching and links to the university with NDHT’s innovation and adaptability.  T*his is* |

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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| **Job Title** | Vision Screening Assistant Practitioner |

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| **Requirements** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL TRAINING**  Degree or Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics  HCPC registration  Additional education in specialist field relevant to post to masters level or equivalent specialist experience  Member of specialist interest group  Training in Makaton or other sign language communication  Possession of City & Guilds 730-7 teaching certificate or equivalent | E  E  E  E  D  D |  |
| **KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS**  Evidence of continuing professional development  Evidence of highly developed communication skills to motivate patients and team  Highly developed analytical and critical appraisal skills  Knowledge of relevant NICE guidance, appropriate national guidance and other relevant initiatives  Proven ability of complex case management  Standard IT Skills including Powerpoint and Excel | E  E  E  E  E  E |  |
| **EXPERIENCE**  Appropriate clinical skill and competence to demonstrate highly developed specialist knowledge in clinical setting including specialist training  Advanced level of clinical expertise to plan and organise a specialist caseload and develop the clinical team  Experience of advanced problem solving  Undertaken specific piece of work to enhance service development  Audit and research experience | E  E  E  E  E  D |  |
| **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**  Good communication skills, written and verbal.  Ability to work autonomously.  Ability to work under pressure and with flexibility.  Empathetic and demonstrates patient focus.  Able to manage own emotions and cope in sometimes difficult situations with patients or their relatives.  Standard computer skills.  Understand the need for professional conduct.  Competent listening and observation skills.  Positive interpersonal skills.  Good co-ordination/organization skills.  Ability to work positively and professionally as part of a team.  Willingness/commitment to undertake training.  Understands and demonstrates commitment to the Trust’s values.  Able to influence and lead the team  Proven ability in organisational and time management  Ability to deal with and resolve conflict | E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E  E |  |
| **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**  The post holder must demonstrate a positive commitment to uphold diversity and equality policies approved by the Trust.  To be willing to work throughout the Trust.  Flexible working re working in a range of clinical settings and environments and shift patterns.  Able to travel to meet needs of the job  Able to manage the moving and handling duties required of working with patients in various settings.  Dextrous and accurate for clinical assessments | E  D  E  E  E  E |  |

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|  | | **FREQUENCY**  **(Rare/ Occasional/ Moderate/ Frequent)** | | | |
| **WORKING CONDITIONS/HAZARDS** | | **R** | **O** | **M** | **F** |
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| **Hazards/ Risks requiring Immunisation Screening** | |  |  |  |  |
| Laboratory specimens | N |  |  |  |  |
| Contact with patients | Y |  |  |  |  |
| Exposure Prone Procedures | N |  |  |  |  |
| Blood/body fluids | Y |  | Y |  |  |
| Laboratory specimens | N |  |  |  |  |
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| **Hazard/Risks requiring Respiratory Health Surveillance** |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Solvents (e.g. toluene, xylene, white spirit, acetone, formaldehyde and ethyl acetate) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Respiratory sensitisers (e.g isocyanates) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Chlorine based cleaning solutions  (e.g. Chlorclean, Actichlor, Tristel) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Animals | N |  |  |  |  |
| Cytotoxic drugs | N |  |  |  |  |
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| **Risks requiring Other Health Surveillance** | |  |  |  |  |
| Radiation (>6mSv) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Laser (Class 3R, 3B, 4) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Dusty environment (>4mg/m3) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Noise (over 80dBA) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Hand held vibration tools (=>2.5 m/s2) | N |  |  |  |  |
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| **Other General Hazards/ Risks** | |  |  |  |  |
| VDU use ( > 1 hour daily) | Y |  |  |  | Y |
| Heavy manual handling (>10kg) | N |  |  |  |  |
| Driving | Y |  |  |  | Y |
| Food handling | N |  |  |  |  |
| Night working | N |  |  |  |  |
| Electrical work | N |  |  |  |  |
| Physical Effort | Y |  | Y | Y |  |
| Mental Effort | Y |  |  |  | Y |
| Emotional Effort | Y |  |  | Y |  |
| Working in isolation | Y |  |  | Y |  |
| Challenging behaviour | Y |  | Y |  |  |