

Job Description and Person Specification

Role: Wilderness Therapy Practitioner & Development Lead



Job Description

Job Title	Wilderness Therapy Practitioner & Development Lead
Grade	6
Service	Outdoor Education Service
Reports to	Andrew Dowling
Location	Coombe Abbey Country Park & City Wide
Job Evaluation Code	



About Coventry City Council

Who we are: At Coventry City Council we are dedicated to making a positive difference to the services we deliver to the diverse citizens of Coventry. The work we do improves people's lives – from helping them into work to providing clean and green places to live, to keeping people safe and protected.

As a Coventry City Council employee, you have our ongoing commitment to your growth and development with opportunities to work across multiple service areas including customer contact, public health prevention and education and skills, adults and children's services and provide support for the most vulnerable.

Our aim is simple – to be globally connected, locally committed, deliver our priorities with fewer resources whilst effectively managing our performance and measuring our progress.

Our Values: We expect everyone who works for us to be committed to our One Coventry values and to share our commitment to becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation:



About the Service your team will provide

Purpose of the role

We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced Wilderness Therapy Practitioner and Development Officer to work with our team to develop and implement wilderness-based therapeutic programs for our client schools and educational settings. The successful candidate will be responsible for planning and leading our expanding alternative provision offer, providing individual and group therapeutic approaches programmes, and developing strategic opportunities to support the Outdoor Education Service long term plan.

Main Duties & Key Accountabilities

The Wilderness Therapeutic Practitioner and Development Lead will be responsible for leading the planning, development, and implementation of wilderness therapy programs to support the emotional and psychological well-being of young people with SEN and SEMH needs. Your work will focus on using the natural environment to drive therapeutic change, promoting mental health, resilience, and positive behaviour in students.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Design, coordinate, and deliver a range of wilderness therapy programs for students with SEN and SEMH needs.
- Work closely with school staff, parents, and other stakeholders to identify suitable students for the program.
- Conduct assessments of the students' needs, set objectives, and regularly review the effectiveness of the therapy.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to integrate wilderness therapy into students' individual educational plans.
- Lead the training of staff in wilderness therapy principles, practices, and safety.
- Maintain accurate and confidential records of therapy sessions and progress reports.
- Advocate for the benefits of wilderness therapy within the wider community and help secure funding for the program.
- Ensure all activities are compliant with relevant health, safety, and safeguarding policies.
- Develop partnerships with other organizations to enhance the wilderness therapy program.
- Stay informed about the latest research and developments in wilderness therapy and SEN/SEMH education.

Key Accountabilities

- Ensuring the wilderness therapy programs are effectively meeting the emotional, psychological, and educational needs of the students.
- Adherence to all legal, ethical, and safety guidelines in planning and conducting wilderness therapy activities.
- The training and development of staff in wilderness therapy practices.

- The successful engagement of stakeholders in the support and promotion of the wilderness therapy program.
- Documentation and reporting on the progress and outcomes of the program.

Key relationships

External Schools and other Educational Settings, Community Organisations	Internal Ed Psych, School improvement, and other education professionals
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Standard information

Post holders will be accountable for carrying out all duties and responsibilities with due regard to Code of Conduct, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and the City Council’s Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Policies.

Duties which include processing of any personal data must be undertaken within the corporate data protection guidelines.

Smoke Free

The City Council is Smoke - Free. Smoking is not permitted on any of our premises or the surrounding land including car parking facilities.

Training

The postholder must attend any training that is identified as mandatory to their role.

Responsible for:

Staff managed by postholder: None

Person specification

Job Evaluation Code	
Knowledge	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive knowledge of outdoor education principles, practices, and methodologies.• Understanding of therapeutic methodologies and how they can be integrated into an outdoor learning environment.• Knowledge about safety measures, first aid, and emergency protocols specific to outdoor learning.• Familiarity with different learning strategies and their application to diverse ages and learning abilities.• Understanding of environmental conservation and how to incorporate these principles into the learning process.• Knowledge of mental health and wellbeing principles and how to incorporate them into outdoor learning.• Familiarity with strategic planning principles and programme development.	
Skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong interpersonal skills to foster positive relationships with students, staff, and stakeholders.• Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, for effective instruction and rapport building.• Ability to facilitate group activities and promote teamwork.• Advanced problem-solving skills, to quickly and effectively respond to challenges that may arise in an outdoor environment.• Leadership and motivational skills to inspire and encourage participants.• Proficient in strategic thinking and planning, including the ability to develop and implement effective learning programs.• Training and coaching skills, to provide guidance and support to learners.• Ability to manage stress and maintain calm in difficult situations.• Skill in using technology and educational software to enhance learning experiences.• First aid certification or related training is desirable.	
Abilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to empathize and connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds.• Capable of physically demanding tasks related to outdoor activities.• Ability to maintain composure and think clearly in emergency situations.• Can adapt teaching methods to meet the needs of different learners.• Ability to handle multiple tasks and manage time efficiently.• Ability to design, develop and implement strategic learning programs that align with organisational goals.• Ability to evaluate and measure program effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.	

Knowledge and Experience

- Proven experience in outdoor education or a related field.
- A degree in a related field such as Psychology, Counselling, Social Work, Outdoor Education, or Therapeutic Recreation or significant practical experience.
- A professional qualification in Wilderness Therapy, Outdoor Leadership, or a related field, or willingness to be trained in relevant qualifications.
- Experience working with young people with SEN and SEMH needs.
- Extensive experience in outdoor education or wilderness therapy.
- A strong understanding of safeguarding principles and health and safety in an outdoor context.
- Excellent communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.
- Experience in a therapeutic or counseling role, particularly in a learning environment.
- Demonstrates experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating learning programs.
- Experience in a leadership or coaching role, with evidence of successful team and individual development.
- Experience in strategic planning and program development, ideally in an educational or therapeutic context.
- Experience working with diverse age groups and learning abilities.
- Evidence of ongoing professional development in outdoor learning, therapeutic methodologies, or related areas.

Special Requirements

- This post is exempted under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such appointment to this post will be conditional upon the receipt of a satisfactory response to a check of police records via Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- A willingness to travel to and work in Coventry when required.
- A willingness to work outside normal hours as required by the needs of the service.

Date Created	08/06/23	Date Reviewed	06/09/2023
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