

The Marie Trust Counselling and Psychotherapy Service

1. Job Title

Job Title	Counsellor
Responsible to	Clinical Team Leader
Base	The Marie Trust
Hours	35 hrs per week (will consider part time)
Salary	£28,325 (or pro rata)

2. The Marie Trust Counselling Service

From 2015 the Marie Trust Counselling Service has offered a chance for people affected by homelessness to speak to someone in confidence in central Glasgow about their mental health. Since the pandemic the service has been growing in terms of referrals, specialist outreach and staffing and has become an integral part of the Marie Trust's wider response to homelessness. Counsellors are fully qualified and registered with professional bodies. The service gets referrals from a variety of agencies or directly from clients. Length of contact is flexible. Counsellors offer a non-judgemental space to talk to help clients make sense of past and present experiences and work on feelings and relationships. The service also aims to help retain strengths and build upon these going forward and use the other resources and opportunities the Trust provides (e.g., education, digital literacy, volunteering, intervention work, advocacy etc)

3. Job Summary

You will join a clinical team providing specialist face-to-face psychodynamic counselling for people affected by homelessness and the associated trauma that surrounds it. The work is based at the Marie Trust in Albion Street Glasgow but may involve working at other specified homelessness service venues in the locality (the Chara Homelessness Emergency Service for women) and may involve some phone based clinical contact. The typical working schedule is 0900 to 1700. You will manage a specialist caseload of clients and usually see assigned clients on a weekly basis. There is regular caseload and clinical supervision. All counsellors attend the weekly team meeting and maintain their own electronic case notes.

4. Duties and responsibilities

- Undertake comprehensive assessments of clients' needs, signposting

and referring to appropriate agencies as required.

- Carry out one to one psychodynamic counselling.
- Manage an on-going case load.
- Creatively work alongside the other elements of the Marie Trust (intervention workers, training and education, volunteering etc)
- Carry out couple counselling if appropriately trained and this is required.
- Facilitate therapeutic support groups if appropriately trained/required.
- Liaise/meet with individuals from organisations involved in the sector as and when required.
- Promote Marie Trust services to other health professionals and the public.
- Maintain accurate records of clinical work and provide appropriate statistical returns as required.
- Fulfil requirements relating to clinical supervision and continued professional development in order to attain/maintain professional accreditation with a recognised professional agency (such as BACP/COSCA)
- Be aware of and comply with the policies, procedures and service standards of the Marie Trust and adhere to BACP code of practice.
- Participate in any other activities as agreed with the Senior Counsellor/Team Leader (e.g. continuing professional development)

5. Qualifications and skills

Essential criteria

- Recognised professional counselling qualification to graduate diploma level (SCQF level 10 or equivalent).
- Training in psychodynamic counselling/psychotherapy and competency in working within this theoretical framework.
- Ability to effectively deliver therapeutic work with people who are affected by homelessness, trauma, mental ill health, substance dependence and other significant support needs.
- Ability to practise therapeutically in environments that may have significant limitations.
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills sufficient to enable the management of stressful and highly emotive situations.
- Ability to offer specific professional expertise to colleagues dependant on experience.
- Ability to make use of clinical supervision.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to manage time effectively.
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work effectively with colleagues.

Desirable Criteria

- Membership of and accreditation/registration in Counselling or Psychotherapy by a national professional body (e.g. BACP/COSCA)
- Mental health profession.
- Experience in working with people affected by homelessness and/or trauma.
- Training in working with couples.
- Training in working with therapeutic groups.