**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job Title** | **Temporary Downright Special Health Lead** |
| **Category of Staff** | **Employee –Temporary Contract** |
| **Location** | **Downright Special, Bransholme-based, covering Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire** |
| **Hours of Work / Working Pattern/Special Arrangement** | 146 hours worked flexibly over 4 months (Group sessions are each Friday in term time) |
| **Full Time Equivalent Salary** | **£24907 (equivalent to NHS Band 5)**  |
| **Actual Pro-rata Salary** | **£2000 + travel expenses** |

**JOB PURPOSE:**

To lead the charity’s work in supporting families and professionals in the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome. To work to support, influence and embed the local Down Syndrome Care Pathway across the Hull and East Riding Area. To work jointly with parents, carers and professions to effectively respond to the health needs of people with Down syndrome in order to improve health outcomes as outlined in the Long Term NHS Plan (2019) and enhance the experience of health care services for people with Down syndrome, their families and carers.

NOTE: This post is initially funded for 4 months only. There may be an option to extend this to a permanent contract subject to further successful funding applications.

The post holder will:

* Take the lead and develop strategies, tools and resources to empower parents and carers to navigate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway enabling quality health care for children with Down syndrome.
* Act as a source of specialist information/advice regarding navigation of the care pathway and signposting to services, enabling children and their parents/carers to experience fewer health inequalities and better outcomes.
* Take the lead role in promoting quality health provision for people with Down syndrome enabling improved access to primary health care services for those people and as such work in partnership with children, parents, carers, Mainstream Primary, Secondary and Acute Healthcare Providers, Private/Voluntary and Statutory Sector Agencies, Public Health and Commissioners.
* Take the lead role in raising awareness, developing skills and providing training to colleagues in Primary, Secondary and Acute Healthcare; Statutory/Voluntary Sector Services and Education Establishments to enable them to respond effectively to the health care needs of people with Down syndrome.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Responsibility for Improving Health Outcomes**

* To promote and champion the rights of people with Down syndrome to equality of access to healthcare.
* To act in a specialist advisory capacity to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to support the health care needs of children with Down syndrome.
* Lead a ‘Downright Special Friday’ early intervention group, to ensure promotion of the health needs for children with Down syndrome are embedded within the teaching, learning and support provided by Downright Special from a young age.
* To research the up-to-date evidence-based information on children with a dual diagnosis of Down syndrome and Autism to ensure these children and families are included and involved, and the appropriate differentiated support is in place.
* To identify barriers locally to patients with Down syndrome accessing Primary, Acute and Secondary Healthcare Services and to work collaboratively with colleagues to develop initiatives and action to overcome and facilitate access.
* Liaise with Hull and East Riding CCGs, working in partnership with local service providers such as HUTH NHS Trust, City Healthcare Partnership and Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust.
* Work within national and local guidelines in relation to safeguarding of both children and adults.
* Work in accordance with the NMC Code.
* Identify where work is required with relevant organisations to develop/review and promote care pathways to improve access for people with Down syndrome across primary, acute and secondary services.
* Constructively challenge current ways of working

**Communication**

* To communicate effectively, using specialist communication skills to develop rapport and understanding with children, young people, adults, who demonstrate a range of communication difficulties, and those who care for them.
* To work in partnership with children and young people who have Down syndrome ensuring their voices are heard and opinions taken into consideration when developing new projects and contributing to appropriate forums and promoting coproduction.
* To collect, collate and present information including the preparation of reports as required.
* Ensure local education and health services have access to contacts, information and advice, tools and resources which will assist them to effectively respond to the needs of people with Down syndrome accessing health care services.
* Maintain up to date knowledge in the specialist field, using updated knowledge to effect change in practice and ensuring effective dissemination to NHS services, parents and /or carers and Downright Special colleagues.
* To take responsibility for identifying, designing, reviewing and delivering training in relation to reducing health inequalities by embedding the local care pathway across Hull and East Riding
* To use effective communication methods to challenge current practice where required advocating the needs of people who have Down syndrome, and ensuring they are empowered to access NHS services.

**Education**

* Ensure that all training delivered is evidence based reflects best practice and is in line with local, regional and national policy.
* Develop and modify high quality training materials that will support the learning of staff, children with Down syndrome and parents/carers both internally and externally.
* Be responsible for researching, designing and delivering evidence based training packages and projects to support the delivery of the care pathway

**Planning and Organisational Skills**

* To plan, prioritise and organise own programme of work which is flexible and meets the needs of the charity.
* To work autonomously organising own workload demonstrating creativity, innovation and flexibility.

**Person Specification: Downright Special Health Lead**

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| **Education/Qualifications** (Skills attained through education or training) |
| Essential* Qualified learning Disability Nurse
* Trained in Makaton Sign Language or local equivalent
* Computer literate
 | Desirable* Level 1 Safeguarding
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| **Proven Ability** (The knowledge, skills and aptitudes needed for the post- holder to perform the required job competently. These attributes will normally have been gained by exposure to work of a similar type) |
| Essential* Recent and up to date experience of working to support the health needs of people with Down syndrome
* Recent and relevant experience working with children with additional needs including communication difficulties and behavioural issues in a health or education-based environment
* Experience of planning and delivering small-group intervention sessions
* Good communication skills with an ability to build effective professional relationships
* Experience of working both independently and within a team
 | Desirable* Experience of working with children with Down syndrome
* Knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act (2005)
* Experience of developing and delivering training sessions.
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| **Personal Qualities** |
| * Positive attitude towards people with Down syndrome
* Highly motivated self-starter with ability to work flexibly and on own initiative
* Friendly and approachable with an ability to build effective partnerships with adults to achieve the best outcomes for children with Down syndrome
* Able to communicate at all levels with staff and volunteers at the charity, key stakeholders within the NHS and healthcare services, families, people with a learning disability, children with Down syndrome
* Willingness to share knowledge with others and keen to learn new ways of working
* Ability to work in partnership across multi-disciplinary teams
* Ability to deal with matters of a confidential nature
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| **Other Requirements** |
| Essential* Clean Driving Licence and access to vehicle, insured for business use, during working hours
* An enhanced DBS check will be required for this post
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