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| **1.** **JOB IDENTIFICATION** |
| Job Title: Dental Therapist , Band 6Department: Public Dental ServiceResponsible to: Clinical DirectorJob Holder Reference: BN-AHP-103No of Job Holders: 2 |

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| **2. JOB PURPOSE** |
| The post holder will be an essential member of the Public Dental Service working as part of a team of clinicians providing dental care to the local population whose treatment needs cannot be met by General Dental Services.    The post holder will contribute to the preventive service provided by oral health care professionals as well as providing preventive and treatment services to patients as part of our special needs and safety net service. This will include referrals following treatment planning by the Senior Dental Officers, Dental Officers and Training Grade Practitioners.  The post holder will work with the NDIP Co-ordinator to help facilitate the National Dental Inspection Programme in NHS Forth Valley.  Working within NHS Forth Valley Values. |

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| **3. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION** |
| The Public Dental Service provides a full range of dental care for people who are unable to obtain care from the General Dental Services of the Independent Contractor Sector. This may include people with disabilities, dental anxiety/phobia, frail elderly, homeless, housebound, who are geographically distant from dental services or who are within a custodial environment.  Services are provided from hospitals, fixed clinics and mobile surgeries. Emergency dental care is provided within normal working hours. The Service also undertakes treatment under general anaesthesia or intravenous/ inhalation sedation. First level dental nurse training is provided to dental nursing staff within general dental practices.  Oral Health Education is also undertaken for groups within the wider Community and Health Care staff |

Clinical Director

Department Manager

Department Manager

Dental Therapist

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| **4.** **DIMENSIONS** |
| The post holder will be assigned a Base clinic but may be required to provide clinical support in a variety of Community Dental Clinics throughout Forth Valley Health Board.  They will provide a full range of prescribed preventive/restorative /surgical procedures to the required high standard for special needs /multiple disability /anxious, adult, frail elderly, child and custodial care patients.  An understanding of the dental needs of patients with a range of medical conditions/ disabilities and the medico-legal issues in respect of these is required.  In addition the post holder will provide a support /treatment service to patients, who have uncontrollable reaction /phobia and who have been unable to accept routine treatment services.  The post holder will be expected to show initiative and contribute fully to the demands of teams working within the various settings while being responsible to the referring practitioner and accountable to the Clinical Director of the Service. |

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| **5. KEY DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES** |
| Following treatment planning by the referring dentist, the therapist will carry out the full range of treatment currently permitted under the General Dental Council Regulations, which may be provided within a dental surgery, mobile unit or on a domiciliary basis.  **5a Clinical** Intra and extra oral assessments  * Restorations (fillings) for adults and children. These will include simple and complex restorations. * Administer inferior dental block and local infiltration anaesthesia * Undertake treatment using Inhalation Sedation if required following appropriate training. * Pulp therapy treatment of deciduous teeth. * Extract deciduous teeth under local anaesthesia. * Undertake pulpotomies and placing of stainless steel crowns on deciduous teeth * Undertake detailed medical histories for all patients including close liaison with the referring dentist and general medical practitioner if appropriate. * Provide advanced preventive treatment such as Preventive resin restorations * Emergency temporary replacement of crowns and fillings * Take impressions * Monitor and record periodontal and caries status of patients. * Scaling and polishing * Apply material to teeth such as fluoride and fissure sealants * Administration of drugs prescribed by the referring dentist. * Knowledge of the Hazards of Ionising radiation and the ability to apply the principals when taking and processing intra oral and extra oral OPG radiographs. * Ability to recognise and respond to medical or anxiety related emergencies most likely in the dental environment e.g., panic/ arrhythmia, faint, epilepsy, asthma, cardiac arrest, anaphylactic shock. * Educational and practical information to all client groups in the maintenance of Oral health and the provision of treatment. * Assist in the development of treatment pathways to rehabilitate and treat patients with extreme phobia and behavioural difficulties. * To assist in the development of communication pathways and desensitization strategies for patients who present with challenging behaviour . * Up to date knowledge of dental materials and their use in accordance with COSHH guidelines and patient / staff and personal safety * An understanding of General Anaesthesia and IV sedation clinics and the provision of pre and postoperative support of patients. * Participate in clinical audit, clinical trails and other quality initiatives. * Provision of care outwith the base clinic in e.g. the Domiciliary environment, general dental practice. * Use manual handling skills and knowledge to ensure the safe transfer of patients and transport of equipment. * Participate in CPD where required to meet the needs of a changing and developing service. * Participate in NDIP basic and detailed school inspections * Provide clinical supervision and teaching for BSc Dental Therapist/Hygienist Students in an Outreach clinic.   **5b Organisational** Implement NHS Forth Valley policies in the workplace.  * Maintain and record up to date clinical notes including / medical / social history etc. * Deal with at first level, enquiries or complaints from patients and their carers/parents and other healthcare professionals. * Re refer patients when appropriate to prescribing clinician. * The efficient completion of essential statistical and clinical data as required . * Provide supervision, support/mentoring for dental nurses while working clinically.  Implement Scottish Prison Service policies and procedures in the custodial environment workplace.Work within NHS Forth Valley Values. |

### 6. SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

* The post holder is expected to have a working knowledge of all equipment used for every clinical procedure undertaken in the role of dental therapist
* High speed rotary cutting instruments.
* Ultra sonic scalers ,
* X-Ray equipment
* Syringes for local anesthesia
* Autoclave/ultrasonic bath
* Dental chair and unit./aspirator
* Inhalation Sedation machines and equipment
* Emergency equipment including O2 Cylinders, drugs and resuscitation equipment.
* Domiciliary equipment
* Where appropriate the ability to drive and set up a mobile dental unit.
* Maintenance of patients records- paper administrative and clinical software.
* Any other electronic patient information management system used in clinical practice.
* Audio visual aids provided to support the delivery of Oral Health Educational Programs to target groups.
* Computer ,telephone fax scanner etc

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| **7. ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW OF WORK** |
| * Dental Therapists clinical duties are prescribed by a referring clinician and are cognizant of the level of skill and competence required to undertake clinical oral health care procedures. * The post holder will work autonomously, managed not supervised to carry out clinical oral health care treatments and is may be required to make irreversible clinical judgements during delivery of care and relay these changes to the referring dentists. * Continued Professional development activity will be driven by the personal learning planning exercise and the needs of the service, * The post holder is responsible for the organisation of their own daily /weekly workload.   **8 COMMUNICATION,WORKING RELATIONSHIPS** |
| The Dental Therapist will be expected to communicate and liaise with referring dentists patients, healthcare professionals and any pertinent others.  The patients may have complex medical conditions as well as physical /learning disabilities and /or mental health problems that are a barrier to care.  These are anxious and vulnerable patients, therefore excellent communication, empathetic and interpersonal skills are essential.  The post holder may be required to provide informal teaching and clinical supervision of trainee Oral Health Care Practitioners and Dental nurses.  The post holder may be required to provide formal teaching and clinical supervision of student Dental Hygienist/Therapists from the undergraduate BSc course in co-operation with the University of Edinburgh. Therefore the post holder will be expected to communicate and liase with the University of Edinburgh BSc in Oral Health Sciences course administrators and tutors when appropriate.  The post holder may be required to work within a custodial environment where they will be expected to communicate and liase with other healthcare professionals and SPS staff.  Additionally the post holder may be expected to clinically supervise unqualified dental nurses. Internal Patients and their families and carers.  Base Dental Clinic Team members.  Dental staff within the Public Dental Service  Public Dental Service clinical support and administrative staff.  Primary Care support services – Estates, Supplies and Human Resources External NHS Forth Valley Acute and Operating Division staff  General Medical Practitioners and the extended primary care team. General Dental Practitioners and staff. Social Services , Education Department /Schools/Voluntary Sector  Scottish Prison Service Staff  **9. PHYSICAL MENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS OF THE POST** Physical  * The dental therapist requires highly developed physical skills with a high degree of precision and manual dexterity. * There is requirement for lengthy periods of concentration along with well developed hand /eye co-ordination and daily controlled physical alertness to use high speed cutting instruments, which operate at speeds in excess of 200,000 revs per minute without detriment to patient, dental nurse and self. * Has responsibility for the safe use of highly expensive and complex Digital OPG equipment. * Has responsibility for the safe use of Inhalation Sedation machines and equipment. * There is a daily requirement to sit stand/stand or kneel for prolonged periods in a sustained restricted position while carrying out precise clinical treatment. * Hoisting / transfer of patients with mobility problems. * Regular need to deliver care in non clinical environments eg bedrooms bathrooms kitchens and toilets. * Regular need to deliver care in environments hazardous to personal health, e.g. areas of poor ventilation and treating patients with unpleasant oral conditions eg infections, halitosis and body fluids with poor personal and domestic hygiene. * You will be expected to assist or support patients whilst they get in and out of the dental chair, this may include use of mechanical aids and hoists. * Carry and transport heavy (6-15 kgs) domiciliary kits/emergency equipment * Manage violence and aggression * Undertake yearly personal protection training (PPT)if required to facilitate clinics in a custodial environment.   Mental   * Intense periods of concentration when providing irreversible restorative/ surgical treatments, for anxious /phobic /child /adult and frail elderly and special needs patients on a daily basis. * Maintenance of a calm atmosphere when providing these types of treatments for patients whose behaviour may be unpredictable is essential. * Alertness is required when observing patients for signs of anxiety and necessary to ensure patient, dental nurse and personal safety. * Concentration is required during the administration of local infiltration and inferior dental block anaesthesia and surgical interventions and non reversible procedures eg fillings/ extractions/periodontal treatments. * Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with distressed patients * Understand the legal basis under which patients are treated and the ethical responsibility of the dental therapist. * Time management pressure from demanding workload including travel between unfamiliar domiciliary destinations. Treatments will be provided in 20/30 minute time slots. * Capable of producing and presenting programmes of Oral Health Care to client groups carers and other health professionals. * Ability to respond to the changing needs of the service.  Environmental  * Daily exposure to substances hazardous to health e.g. Radiation ,X-ray chemicals, amalgam, nitrous oxide. * Daily risk of sharps injury and exposure to body fluids (blood and saliva) and odours. * Frequent exposure to highly unpleasant working conditions. * Working within a custodial care environment. |

#### 10. KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR THE POST

**Qualification:**

Degree in Oral Health Sciences, or;

Diploma in Dental Therapy plus post qualification study (degree equivalent) in extended duties to accredited General Dental Council standards.

**Experience:**

Significant work experience in the practice of Dental Therapy

Evidence of relevant and current Continuing Professional Development

Excellent listening empathetic and interpersonal skills

Sensitivity and an understanding of the needs of people with disabilities, phobia /anxiety/those in a custodial environment.

Knowledge of current guidelines and policies affecting the practice of Dental Therapy.

Up to date knowledge and training in Basic Life Support

Current driving license

**JOB DESCRIPTION AGREEMENT**

**Post holder’s Signature:**

**Date:**

**Clinical Director’s Signature:**

**Date:**