# JOB DESCRIPTION – Band 8C

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| **JOB IDENTIFICATION**

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| **Job Title:** | **PROFILE LABEL:** **Consultant Clinical Psychologist**  |
| **Responsible to (insert job title):** | **PROFILE LABEL:****Professional Lead / Head of Psychology Service** |
| **Department(s):** | **Psychology Service, Prison Healthcare** |
| **Operating Division**  | **Adult Mental Health Services** |
| **Job Reference number (coded):** | **TBC** |
| **No of Job Holders:** | **1** |
| **Last Update (insert date):** | **May 2025** |

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| **1. JOB PURPOSE****Consultant Clinical Psychologists are required;**To provide operational management, and strategic leadership for the Clinical Psychology Interventions Service (CPlS) in prison healthcare in GG&C. To work autonomously within professional guidelines and exercise responsibility for the systematic provision, governance, and quality of psychological practice within prison healthcare, within professional guidelines and in conjunction with the Professional lead. Responsible for the development, management and governance of psychology teaching, training, consultancy, and supervision activities within specialist area.To act as a highly specialist resource to the wider professional community and, as a major requirement of the job, to lead the audit and research strategy for this service.2. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT The Clinical Psychology Interventions Service in prison healthcare (PHC) operates within the Adult Mental Health Services of NHSGG&C. The service provides psychological assessment and treatment for people with mental disorder who may present a risk of serious harm to themselves and/or others. Referrals are currently accepted from NHS and SPS colleagues, criminal justice social workers, and forensic psychologists.The role of Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Service lead for the Clinical Psychology Interventions Service (CPIS) will be a highly experienced Clinical Psychologist. The post holder will operate as a member of the Prison Healthcare (PHC) Senior Management Team in leading the overall development of psychology within those services, including strategic planning, workforce planning and staff development. The post holder will provide leadership for all NHS psychology staff working in PHC in GG&C, ensuring governance of psychological practice and providing management and oversight to ensure effective and efficient utilisation of the psychology resource, consistent with organisational priorities.It is essential that candidates have a post graduate doctoral level training in clinical psychology (or its equivalent or those trained prior to 1996) as accredited by the BPS or HCPC, including specifically models of psychopathology, clinical psychometrics, and neuropsychology, two or more distinct psychological therapies, and lifespan developmental psychology. This post requires registration with the HCPC as a Clinical Psychologist. |
|  **3. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION** CONSULTANT PSYCHOLOGIST**(THIS POST)**PRINCIPAL PSYCHOLOGISTS / CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTSASSISTANT PSYCHOLOGISTS/RESEARCH ASSISTANT/TRAINEES PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONAL LEAD |
| **4. SCOPE AND RANGE**Psychology Services are responsible for:providing a specialist psychology service for all clients of the service.* advising management on appropriate policy, systems and programmes to promote effective delivery and quality of all psychologically-based interventions.
* providing training, or for advising service management on appropriate external training, to all staff within the service involved in the delivery of psychologically-based interventions.
* providing specialist clinical supervision to staff delivering formal psychological therapies, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy.
* managing the psychological resources available to the service in terms of staff, including psychologists (trainee psychologists and assistants) and in terms of psychology materials employed in the assessment and the treatment of patients.
* participating in local management groups and responsible for service development for aspects of psychological care.
* providing specialist psychological research expertise to the service.

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| **5. MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**Clinical: 1. To provide highly developed specialist psychological assessments of clients based upon the appropriate use, interpretation and integration of complex data from a variety of sources including psychological and neuropsychological tests, self-report measures, rating scales direct and indirect structured observations and semi-structured interviews with clients, family members and others involved in the client’s care.
2. To formulate plans for the formal psychological treatment and/or management of a client’s mental and/or health problems based upon an appropriate conceptual framework of the client’s problems, and employing methods based upon evidence of efficacy.
3. To be responsible for implementing a range of highly specialist psychological interventions for individuals, carers, families and groups, within and across teams employed individually and in synthesis, adjusting and refining psychological formulations drawing upon different explanatory models and maintaining a number of provisional hypotheses.
4. To make highly skilled evaluations and decisions about treatment options taking into account both theoretical and therapeutic models and highly complex factors concerning historical and developmental processes that have shaped the individual, family or group.
5. To exercise full responsibility and autonomy for the treatment of and discharge of clients whose problems are managed as a psychologically based standard care plan, ensuring appropriate assessment, formulation and interventions, communicating with the referral agent and others involved with the care on a regular basis.
6. To provide expertise and specialist psychological advice, guidance and consultation to other professionals contributing directly to the analysis of clients’ problems and disorders to ensure accurate formulations, reflecting an in-depth causal understanding, diagnosis and treatment plan.
7. To ensure that all members of the wider clinical team have access to a psychologically based framework for the understanding and care of clients of the service, through the provision of advice and consultation and the dissemination of psychological knowledge, research and theory.
8. To undertake risk assessment and risk management for relevant individual clients and to provide both general and specialist consultation and advice for other professionals on psychological aspects of risk assessment and management.
9. To act as designated care co-ordinator, in appropriate cases, ensuring the provision of a care package appropriate for the client’s needs, co-ordinating the work of others involved with care, arranging client’s care reviews as required and communicating effectively with the client, his/her family and all others involved in care; and to monitor progress during the course of multi-disciplinary interventions.
10. To communicate in a highly skilled and sensitive manner, information concerning the assessment, formulation which includes making available an explanation of how the problem developed, an indication of what maintains the problem and factors which may guide treatment options for clients under their care and to monitor and evaluate progress during the course of both uni- and multi-disciplinary care.
11. To provide expertise and advice to facilitate the effective and appropriate provision of psychological care by all members of the team.
12. To provide expert consultation and opinion about the psychological care of the client group to staff and agencies outside the Health Board Area.
13. To give expert advice to the Courts on cases where opinions may differ or in unique situations
14. To take part in regular professional supervision and appraisal and maintain an active engagement with current developments in the field of clinical psychology and related disciplines

Teaching, training and supervision:**NB. Clinical supervision: term is specific to Psychology and relates to a process of reviewing clinical practice; leading to the development of practice. Not to be equated with the Job Evaluation definition of supervision.**1. To ensure appropriate systems for the clinical and professional supervision of qualified and unqualified psychologists across the service.
2. To provide clinical and professional supervision to qualified and assistant psychologists working in the service.
3. To provide supervision for CAPPs Trainees or MSc trainees in psychological therapies.
4. To co-ordinate and provide specialist clinical placements for trainee clinical psychologists, ensuring that they acquire the necessary clinical and research skills to doctoral level where appropriate, and competencies and experience to contribute effectively to good psychological practice, and undertake the assessment and evaluation of those competencies
5. To provide specialist advice, consultation, training and clinical supervision/assessment to other members of the team for their provision of psychologically based interventions to help improve clients’ functioning.
6. To provide pre and post-qualification teaching of clinical psychology.
7. To continue to develop expertise in the area of professional pre and post-graduate training and clinical supervision.

7. To ensure that all psychologists within the service/sector team maintain up to date knowledge of legislation, national and local policies and issues in relation to both the specific client group and mental health.Management and Recruitment, 1. To ensure the delivery of a high quality, best-practice and evidence-based service within area of own responsibility
2. To exercise responsibility for managing the psychological resources available to the sector team/service including line management responsibility for qualified and Assistant/Trainee Clinical Psychologists psychological staff and psychological materials employed in the assessment and the treatment of patients.
3. To exercise responsibility for the systematic governance of psychological practice within the sector team/service and to interpret National Clinical Guidelines such as NICE and SIGN Guidelines and ensure that services are meeting all relevant standards.
4. To manage the resources available to the service in terms of the delivery of psychologically based interventions for clients delivered by non-specialists.
5. To ensure appropriate professional psychology recruitment within the service/sector team.
6. To advise on the skill level required to undertake psychological practice within a service development framework
7. To monitor and evaluate the psychology service provision with the service/clinical team to ensure that it meets required service and practice standards.

**Policy, Planning and Service Development**1. As a senior clinician to ensure the development of a high quality, responsive and accessible service for clients, their carers and families within the sector team/service, including advising both service and professional management on those aspects of the service where psychological and/or organisational matters need addressing.
2. To plan and implement service developments and projects within the sector team/service that respond to Government initiatives and targets and that have application across other teams and services. For example, the development of innovative service components to reduce waiting times or enhance patient satisfaction and outcomes.
3. To take a lead role in the delivery of Care Pathways which may require changes in psychological practice to meet patients' needs.
4. To take a lead role in the workforce and resource planning for the psychological interventions and therapies component of the wider service/clinical team.
5. To identify gaps or resource issues in the service and to initiate and implement developments.

IT responsibilities:1. Use I.T. systems to record clinical activity, caseload, waiting list etc and to report on the performance of psychologists within the area and on the activity of the service.2. Undertake the collection, processing, interpretation, reporting of information using appropriate software, including advanced statistical, and presentation packages.3. Use of IT systems to access the NHS e-library for keeping up-to-date with current developments.Research and service evaluation:1. As a major job requirement to plan, develop and undertake formal research programmes relevant to the post holder's area of clinical activity and service.
2. To undertake collaborative research activity including the evaluation of, monitoring and development of the service/sector team’s services, through the deployment of professional skills in research, service evaluation and audit.
3. To utilise theory, evidence-based literature and research to support evidence-based practice in individual work, work with other team members and across the service/sector team.
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| **6a. EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY**1. To use a variety of technological equipment for the purposes of clinical work, e.g. video cameras, audio recorders, video players etc.2. To exercise responsibility for the appropriate and safe use of specialist psychological equipment within the area including appropriate systems of stock control.3. Use I.T. systems to maintain up to date records of; clinical activity, caseload, waiting list etc and to report on the performance of psychologists within the service/team.4. Use specialist psychometric test equipment to identify language, memory, intellectual and other cognitive deficits. **6b. SYSTEMS**1. To ensure the highest standards of clinical record keeping including electronic data entry and recording, report writing and the responsible exercise of professional self-governance in accordance with professional codes of practice of the British Psychological Society and Divisional policies and procedures.
2. Use I.T systems to maintain up to date records of clinical activity, caseload, waiting list etc and to report on the performance of psychologists within these areas.
3. Use I.T. systems relevant to clinical interventions, e.g. for scoring psychometric tests.
4. Use management and I.T, systems to ensure adequate performance management information is provided in a timely manner.
5. Use management and IT systems to ensure national workforce data and clinical activity data are provided for e.g. ISD workforce and camhs mapping
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| **7. DECISIONS AND JUDGEMENTS**Consultant Clinical Psychologists are autonomous Practitioners responsible for their own work and the interpretation of agreed guidelines and policies. The post holder is guided by general health organisational and broad operational Policies which they are required to interpret and initiate appropriate action as required. Specifically the post holder expected to:-1. Make highly skilled evaluations and decisions about treatment suitability, assessment, formulation, diagnosis, treatment and discharge, 2. Offer expert opinion where this may draw on highly complex and conflicting information. 3. Advise on the development of clinical specialisms and other service developments, making decisions based on the clinical needs of clients, strategic development of the service, the research/evidence base and national policy.4. Make judgements on the best use of psychology resources and of resources to the service / team, in the area of responsibility, often where there may be significant difference in opinion. This will include making decisions and judgements involving highly complex facts, maybe in unpredictable situations, which require analysis and interpretation of consequences of a range of options.5**.** The post holder will be an expert in their field and will be required to make judgements in new or unique situations where there is no obvious solution.6. As a Consultant the post holder will have the freedom to undertake appropriate actions based on their interpretations for example, of relevant clinical and professional policiesWork will be the subject to appraisal meetings with the Professional Lead / Head of Service who will set Key Result Areas and agree a personal development plan for the year. |
| **8. COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS**The post holder is required:* To provide and receive highly complex information in a highly skilled and sensitive manner, concerning the assessment, formulation and treatment plans of clients under their care and to monitor and evaluate progress during the course of both uni- and multi-disciplinary care.
* To communicate effectively with patients suffering from severe mental illness, including patients with personality disorders who may exhibit a significant degree of hostility, and antagonism.
* To address subjects such as a client’s past sexual abuse, traumatic events, exposure to violence etc. in client’s lives or suggesting management strategies for individuals where there is considerable conflict regarding the approach to adopt.
* To manage barriers to acceptance or understanding (e.g. head injury, learning disability, sensory impairment), which need to be overcome using the highest level of interpersonal and communication skills.

The post holder is required to develop and maintain effective communication systems with;* Clinicians and managers to ensure effective delivery of the service
* External agencies including GPs, the Courts, Universities and Social Work
* Patient Groups and voluntary bodies
* To communicate effectively with patients when significant barriers to communication exist e.g. learning disability, sensory or physical impairment
* To undertake formal presentations in public, professional and academic settings.
* To maintain communication with wider networks, including national networks, such as the British Psychological Society and its Division of Clinical Psychology, and national special interest groups.
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| **9. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMANDS OF THE JOB**Physical: * To exercise physical skills requiring dexterity, precision, good hand-eye coordination and speed in administering psychometric tests, with a specific requirement for consistency and accuracy, which are essential for accurate diagnosis.
* To use specialist psychometric tests requiring the simultaneous co-ordinated manipulation of test materials and the accurate observation, timing and recording of patient performances and behaviours.
* Good keyboard skills are required.
* Considerable physical effort is entailed through sitting for hours in a restricted position, e.g. during clinical interview or assessment sessions. These sessions typically extend for a half or full day at a time.
* Use a car to make home visits or travel between clinics.

Mental:* Considerable intense mental effort (often attending to multiple sources of information at the same time) is required when concentrating, often for long periods at a time when directly interacting with clients during assessment and therapy sessions. .These concentration requirements typically endure over the period of ‘clinics’, which may extend for a half or full day at a time
* Intense concentration is also required when using varied and sometimes intricate clinical assessment procedures (e.g. interviews, direct observations of client behaviour or the use of complex psychometric assessment tools

Emotional: * Frequent exposure to highly distressing or emotional circumstances when providing treatment to patients who are seriously mentally ill, and exhibiting challenging behaviour (such as suicidal threats or aggressive and threatening behaviour)
* Frequent exposure to highly distressing circumstances as when giving news of life threatening illnesses such as dementia or when hearing personal accounts of involvement with child abuse or domestic breakdown
* Considerable emotional demands are presented in listening to or reading about staff or clients’ or their carers’ distress and through exposure to disturbing accounts of serious crimes, sexual abuse or traumas, as well as from actual or threatened aggressive behaviour on the part of clients or carers and occasionally from significant threats of violence from forensic clients and their families.
* Emotional demands are routinely experienced in supporting other staff through major challenges at work, including clinical supervision of difficult cases. These include debriefing staff and clients after violent or otherwise traumatic events.

Environmental: * Services to clients are provided in a variety of settings, including clinics, hospital, their own homes, own rooms, hostel accommodation, bed and breakfast, etc. Some of these environments may present exposure to hazards, such as verbal and physical aggression, loud noise, or unpleasant working conditions e.g. bad odours, cigarette smoke, domestic animals, used injecting equipment, etc.
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| **10. MOST CHALLENGING/DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE JOB*** The post involves working with individuals who present significant challenges to those supporting them either through the risks they themselves face or present because of their behaviour or through significant mental health difficulties or serious physical health problems. In addition, there is a need to respond to the sometimes conflicting needs of patients, referrers and staff in a manner that maintains high quality service and staff morale.
	+ Forming lone judgements and offering expert opinions in relation to highly complex and diverse problems / disorders, often under emotionally charged circumstances.
	+ Managing a diversity of patient needs and service demands in a context of restricted resources.
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**PERSON SPECIFICATION – Band 8c**

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| **KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB**

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|  | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
| **TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS** | Demonstrates advanced theoretical and practical knowledge as a clinical psychologists which requires to be obtained through:-* Post-graduate doctoral level training in clinical psychology (or its equivalent) as accredited by the BPS or HCPC, including specifically models of psychopathology, clinical psychometrics, violence risk assessment and neuropsychology, two or more distinct psychological therapies and lifespan developmental psychology.
* Post-doctoral training in additional specialised areas of psychological practice of an extensive and substantial nature.
* Registration with the HCPC as a Clinical Psychologist.
* Training in clinical practice supervision.
 | Full membership of the Division of Clinical Psychology.Experience delivering phase 2 trauma interventions. MBT, CAT, or schema training |
| **EXPERIENCE** | Significant supervised clinical psychology practice experience in NHS or equivalent by a suitably qualified Clinical Psychologist.Requires experience of working with a wide variety of client groups, across the whole life course and presenting with the full range of psychological problems and the full range of clinical severity, across the full range of care settings including outpatient, community, primary care, in-patient and residential care settings. This includes skill in maintaining a high degree of professionalism in the face of highly emotive and distressing problems, verbal abuse and the threat of physical abuse.Experience of exercising full clinical responsibility for clients’ psychological care and treatment, both as an independent practitioner and also within the context of a multi-disciplinary care plan.Experience of teaching, training and/or professional and clinical supervision. | Experience of working in prisons.Experience of working in general adult mental healthcare services. |
| **KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS** | Doctoral level knowledge of research design and methodology, including complex multivariate data analysis as practised within the field of clinical psychology.Knowledge of legislation and its implications for both clinical practice and professional management in relation to the client group and mental health.Skills as a senior clinician to undertake clinical leadership roles and tasks within multidisciplinary and multi-agency contextsA high level ability to communicate effectively at both a written and oral level complex, highly technical and clinically sensitive information to clients, their families, carers and a wide range of lay and professional persons within and outside the NHS.Skills in providing consultation to other professional and non-professional groups.Evidence of continuing professional development as required by the HCPC. |  |
| **PERSONAL** | A capacity to establish priorities and organise workload effectively and efficientlyEnthusiasm for a broad range of psychology phenomena, an interest in models of service delivery, and an ability to articulate the value added by clinical psychology services within the context of multi-disciplinary mental health servicesAbility to operate effectively within a team based setting at a high level |  |
| **OTHER**  | Able to travel to different bases as required.  |  |

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