

Dedham Therapy Farm CIC

Mill Lane,
Dedham,
Colchester,
Essex.
CO7 6DH

At Dedham Therapy Farm CIC we support individuals with diverse needs, to overcome barriers to daily living using animals and outdoor activity. We are a small close knit Occupational Therapy team working collaboratively to provide a person centred service to people of all ages and ability.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an Occupational Therapist to join our friendly team. We are a unique setting, working with a diverse range of individuals. Based on the border of Essex and Suffolk, we pride ourselves in offering a therapeutic outdoor service all year round.

Vision: To empower people to develop, recover, or maintain their wellbeing through nature, animals and meaningful activities.

Mission: We provide bespoke, person-centred therapeutic services using nature, animals and occupational therapy to anyone who would benefit. We improve people's physical and mental health using Animal Assisted Therapy and farming activities.

Values: Person centred, Collaborative, Inclusive, Open - minded, Diverse.

Role Occupational Therapist

Salary £28,000 per annum

Hours 37.50 hours a week Monday to Friday.

Closing Date n/a

Person specification

| Category | Essential | Desirable |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Therapist with degree HCPC registration RCOT membership CPD portfolio DBS check Full UK drivers' licence with access to a vehicle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid at Work or Emergency First Aid at work certificate. Fire Safety Health and Safety Manual Handling Safeguarding training level 2 |
| Experience/Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working as part of an Occupational therapy team. Good theoretical and practical knowledge of a broad range of assessments and the relative benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardening, animal care and/or woodwork. Health and Safety De-escalation skills |
| Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to communicate and present information, verbally and in writing, in a clear and logical manner to Farm Assistants and carers who may have difficulties with communication. Competent IT skills. Ability to prioritise, organise and delegate. Ability to maintain pace in a high demand environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative communication skills e.g. sign/Makaton. Use of reflective practise. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to adhere to HCPC guidelines. • The ability to modify how you communicate with animals and people depending on the situation. • Be able to take direction. • Able to use own initiative. | |
| Qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated. • Creative. • Ability to work autonomously and take responsibility for own actions and others. • Positive risk approach. • Ability to work collaboratively in a close-knit team. • Develop good working relationships with other organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of social enterprise. • Attention to detail. |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be willing to work outside all year round. • Must have a desire to use animals and outdoor activity to provide therapeutic intervention. | |

Job Description

The post holder will

- To be responsible for an allocated and varied caseload, with support from Management.
- Provide Animal Assisted Therapy sessions and outdoor activity to Farm Assistants referred for therapy.
- Provide therapy sessions at the farm sessions and in the community.
- Be responsible for the assessment, planning and implementation of therapeutic interventions for Farm Assistants.
- Continuously evaluate and record Farm Assistant progress.
- Provide professional advice to Farm Assistants, parents, carers and other services.
- Support Farm Assistants in a group or on a one to one basis.
- Follow all Dedham Therapy Farm CIC policies and procedures.
- Act as role model for Junior or less experienced Staff.
- Participate in the development of the service.
- Establish therapeutic relationships with Farm Assistants with appropriate boundaries.
- Carry out risk assessments to ensure safety of all.
- Work collaboratively with the rest of the team.
- Work collaboratively with the Farm Assistants and their significant others, to provide person centred sessions.
- Establish good working relationships with other organisations.
- Work autonomously, seeking advice when appropriate.
- To analyse and understand the impact on the Farm Assistant and their family/carers of occupational therapy intervention and to be able to modify it appropriately.
- To cover, where necessary, staff sickness and annual leave.
- Be creative.
- Be motivated.
- To demonstrate commitment to Continuous Professional Development.
- Open to expand knowledge and skills relating to the setting, e.g. gardening, animal care.
- Demonstrate flexibility within your role to support the needs of the team and Farm Assistants.
- Carry out other duties and tasks to ensure the wellbeing of therapy animals and Farm Assistants.
- Sourcing and purchasing of resources required for your sessions.
- Provide clinical supervision to junior staff, where appropriate.
- To provide OT placements to University Students, once training has been completed and feel confident in this setting.

- Answering the phone if required, speaking with Farm Assistants support network via various means of communication.
- Attending meetings with other organisations and support networks.
- Provide team member support to support Farm Assistants unable to get into session due to anxiety, where you are available.
- Maintain and cleaning of equipment.
- Providing first aid, carrying out fire marshall duties
- Meet the animal care needs of the therapy animals and liaise with animal care team, to ensure health and wellbeing of therapy animals.
- Work with the team to meet the needs of the business.
- Contribute to keeping a high level of cleanliness in the office, restrooms, and farm buildings and general farm areas.

What can we offer you?

- Personal development
- A friendly working environment.
- 28 days holiday inc 4 Bank holidays plus 4 extra bank holidays.
- Opportunity to share ideas and make a real difference to our service.
- Opportunity to have input into your own caseload.
- Variety in your working day.
- Opportunity to have input in service development.
- Paid DBS
- Pension Plan

If you require any further information about our service, please contact us.