**Physiotherapist:** Band 5 or 6 equivalent depending on experience.

**Department:**  Therapy Department

**Reports to:** Clinical Lead

**Accountable to:** Clinical Lead and Merlin MS Centre Manager

The Merlin MS Centre is the *only* purpose-built facility in Cornwall that provides clinical services, therapies, counselling, respite care, community transport, information, and support to people affected by neurological conditions. The centre opened in April 2009, and we have a body of 10 staff and over 90 volunteers with a board of 10 Trustees.

Throughout the pandemic, like many services we have seen significant changes. However, moving forwards, we are excited about the opportunities we are planning to expand the therapies we can provide to people across Cornwall, including the development of our hydrotherapy service and Sensory Integration Therapy service for individuals across the lifespan.

# Job Role

To support the provision of a high quality, holistic therapy service for individuals with MS and other neurological conditions. You will be based at the Merlin MS Centre, liaising with both internal and external multi-disciplinary teams, medical specialists, carers, and other care professionals. You will provide a therapy rehabilitation service to Merlin MS Centre service users, providing direct clinical care, which encompasses physiotherapy assessment, treatment and management of service users and review treatments, evaluate progress, and make changes as needed.

A key function of the role is to enable people to engage with and participate in everyday life, including education, leisure, and recreational opportunities, providing advice, guidance, training, and support. A willingness to undertake training is essential to achieve and maintain an appropriate level of competence in all areas required to perform this role. You will be comfortable using technology to record and evaluate assessment and therapy process, including supervision, communication with other professionals and for record keeping. You may be required to provide home visits or therapy in the community.

You will support the Clinical Lead Therapist and Merlin team to ensure continuity of service delivery and service development tasks, supervising clinical workload of Therapy Assistants and assisting in day-to-day management of the therapy department. This will include the development of the new hydrotherapy service.

# Main Responsibilities

# Key Responsibilities and accountabilities:

# To be aware and adhere to Merlin MS Centre procedures and policies.

# To always respect patient confidentiality.

# To manage clinical risk within the Merlin MS Centre and act to effectively manage identified risks.

# To always adopt safe codes of practice, to adhere to the rules of professional conduct and to be aware of emergency procedures.

# To be responsible for the safe and competent use of therapeutic equipment, manual handling, and therapy gym equipment.

# Maintain client documentation, records, and accurate statistical information to reflect care provided and meet professional standards.

# To undertake training as required and achieve and maintain an acceptable level of competence in all aspects of the job. To keep up to date with developments in clinical practice to ensure delivery of evidence-based care.

# Act independently in prioritising client needs to plan, implement, evaluate, treat, and progress client care to maximise functional independence and rehabilitation potential within a specialist area, using a sound knowledge of evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning skills.

# To be responsible for your own workload in conjunction with the Clinical Lead ensuring clients receive a full assessment and planned programme of care, with regular reviews and adaptation as required. To appropriately use outcome measures and goal setting.

# To support the smooth, efficient, and effective running of the therapy department and assist in service development. Deputise for senior staff to maintain continuity of service delivery in their absence.

# To support the development of an in-service training program, providing training and advice to therapy assistants, other clinical and non-clinical staff.

# To participate in the annual appraisal system for personal development and performance review.

# Be involved, where necessary, in the promotion and marketing of the Merlin MS Centre.

# At times you may be required to do other duties to assist with the organisational running of the Centre.

# May be expected to travel to different locations throughout working day and will therefore be required to transport and unload clients and equipment following manual handling guidelines.

# Professional Communication

# To be skilled in communicating with clients with a range of physical, cognitive, and communication difficulties.

# Ensure that feedback and appropriate information is given to clients in a client centred manner.

# Liaise with members of the MDT and work jointly, as appropriate about patient care and treatment plans.

# Liaise with other professionals, such as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, as well as patients' families, carers, and employers.

# To provide feedback and advice to care staff and other members of the multi-disciplinary team regarding the assessment and treatment of a client’s physical, functional, cognitive, sensory, and perceptual abilities. This includes psychosocial needs. Feedback may be offered to relatives, carers and external agencies as consented by the client or their advocate(s).

# Make referrals to other agencies as required/appropriate.

# To work with clients, families, and the multidisciplinary team to identify client centred goals as part of their overall rehabilitation programme.

# Documentation

# To maintain clinical records and write reports to a professional standard efficiently and effectively.

# Contribute to department audits, research activities and the collation of outcome measures as required.

# To initiate and complete referrals including equipment and ongoing support or therapy.

# To contribute to service development or department assessments, audit, guidelines, and standards.

# Professional

# Supervision of assistant staff and education and supervision of students on clinical placement as agreed.

# To comply with the HCPC and CSP code of ethics and professional conduct.

# To maintain Health Professionals Council registration.

# Contribute to in-service programmes including feedback on courses attended.

# To review and reflect on your own practice and performance through effective use of professional supervision and appraisal.

# To participate in own supervision and work towards objectives set in appraisal.

# Training

# To comply with the mandatory training requirements.

# To keep up to date with new developments within the clinical field through membership to specialist groups and professional bodies. This includes clinical guidelines and evidence-based assessment and treatment.

# Attend conferences and meetings including professional shows as required.

# Attend external and internal training courses as agreed for continual professional development and meeting appraisal objectives. Training may be subject to contractual agreements.

# Confidentiality

The post holder will be expected to maintain the complete confidentiality of all material and information to which they have access and process.

# Equal Opportunities

To comply with Merlin MS Centres equal opportunity policy and avoid any behaviour which discriminates against colleagues, potential employees, clients and families on the grounds of sex, marital status, race, age, belief, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, creed, class, gender or sexual orientation.

# Core values and beliefs

All staff are expected to work in line with Merlin MS Centres core values and beliefs as these underpin the work and ethos of the centre. These are an integral part of the job including the probationary period, performance and development reviews.

**Terms and Conditions**

Your contracted hours will be 23 hours a week, predominantly worked over 3 days.

Salary XXX pa circa this will depend on experience.

Equivalent to XXX (dependant on experience) a year based on full time hours.

**General**

This Job Description is not exhaustive and the postholder may be required to undertake other appropriate duties and responsibilities as required.

Merlin MS Centre, Therapy Services is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff and volunteers must be responsible and accountable for their safeguarding practice and proactive in identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns.

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| **Discussed and agreed with Post Holder** |
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** |
|  | **Employee** |  |
| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** |
|  | **Line Manager** |  |

For more information or to discuss this role please contact debbie@merlinmscentre.org.uk or see our website <https://www.merlinmscentre.org.uk/home/current-vacancies>