



Community Equipment Occupational Therapist

Reports to:	Operational Lead Occupational Therapist		
Department:	Adult Social Care	Grade:	PO4
DBS Status:	Enhanced Adults	Politically restricted:	No

Job Purpose:

To provide clinical leadership and expertise in relation to equipment provision for front line staff across children and adults, health and social care and will work in partnership with commissioners and contracted providers.

This role will form part of a strong collaboration, to ensure high quality, evidence-based provision of equipment for residents of Brent to change and challenge the ordering behaviour of prescribers, and to improve the knowledge and understanding of prescribers and partners in the effective use of community equipment.

To scrutinise the prescription of specialist equipment and monitor the usage of the standard equipment, promoting best value from a clinical perspective.

Values

Collaborate proactively.
Lead inclusively.
Embrace change.
Be bold and curious.
Celebrate and share our success.

Job specific roles and responsibilities

Principal Accountabilities and Responsibilities:

1. Provide expert advice to clinical and non-clinical prescribers in relation to equipment provision. This will include being available for telephone discussions, and attendance at operational team meetings (sharing good practice, audit outcomes etc.)
2. Actively participate in and be accountable to the monthly BICES meeting, contributing to a joint work programme and regularly reporting on progress
3. To coordinate and chair operational meetings with lead practitioners across Brent health and social care to facilitate a formal process for open and continuous dialogue with prescribers in line with operational arrangements.
4. Manage a work programme across Brent health and social care to maximise the benefits and value for money of community equipment services by:
 - a) providing clinical leadership and expert advice for BICES. This includes providing advice to contracted providers, and third sector organisations on equipment provision.

- b) working to ensure clinical best practice is embedded across BICES with positive outcomes for clients.
 - c) working to ensure an integrated approach to the delivery of best clinical outcomes for BICES.
 - d) To change and challenge the ordering behaviour of prescribers, and to improve the knowledge and understanding of prescribers and partners in the effective use of community equipment.
 - e) To scrutinise the prescription of specialist equipment and monitor the usage of the standard equipment, promoting best value from a clinical perspective.
 - f) leading work to improve the Brent community equipment catalogue in order to ensure that this is fit for purpose.
 - g) working on cross-service community equipment recycling approaches in order to ensure an integrated, best value approach.
 - h) reviewing prescribing authorisation across all Brent health and social care services.
 - i) providing training and other service improvement activities for community equipment as required.
5. Leading joint work to ensure that robust systems and processes in place for appropriate and timely prescription.
 6. Leading on work to ensure a long-term approach to delivering community equipment services in Brent. This includes contributing to a system wide culture delivering value for money and proportionate provision to maximise benefits of provision.
 7. To be proactive and deliver innovation to the provision of equipment services to ensure that the services are efficient and current.
 8. To keep up to date with developments and innovation and work with commissioners and service providers to secure the most up to date, clinically effective and value for money products for our local equipment catalogue.
 9. Work with lead commissioning and contracts managers to deliver strong oversight of BICES across Brent health and social care services.
 10. Support the work of the Integrated Commissioning team in other duties as required and which are in line with the scope of the role.
 11. To participate in projects, pilots and working parties to develop and improve new and existing services
 12. To initiate and develop targeted initiatives which respond to trends in demand or spend on equipment services, to ensure value for money is maintained.
 13. To support the management of spend, by monitoring when actions are required operationally to respond to and target areas which require improvement.
 14. To organise and plan work of self and other team members, taking into account competing demand, priority, and eligibility criteria, and workload management, informing senior managers of any issues or shortfalls.

15. To provide senior management with information concerning areas of work activity in the context of agreed divisional requirements for the development of management information systems.
16. To fully utilise available information technology.
17. To liaise effectively with, and help in securing the resources of other agencies, e.g. Housing, Health Services and other relevant and appropriate private and voluntary agencies in the area involved with particular service users.
18. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all employees are required to act in such a way that at all times safeguards the health and well-being of children and vulnerable adults.
19. Carry out duties with due regard to the Council's Customer Care, Equal Opportunities, Information Governance, Data Protection, Health and Safety and Emergency Planning & Awareness (including to provide assistance where available) policies and procedures.
20. Employees should embed environmental sustainability into their work, actively contributing to Brent becoming a carbon-neutral borough in 2030.
21. Undertake any other duties commensurate with the general level of responsibility of this post.

Essential Requirements (Key Skills & qualifications)

Knowledge and Qualifications

1. Degree in Occupational Therapy (or equivalent)
2. Registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
3. Understanding of health and social services statutory responsibilities for community equipment therapy services across children's and adults.
4. Excellent working knowledge of community equipment.
5. Knowledge and understanding of the main issues relating to good outcomes for children, young people and adults who require community equipment to meet health, social care and/or education needs
6. Some knowledge and understanding of commissioning services in complex multi-agency environments, including across the health and social services, and the challenges this presents.

Experience

7. Substantial experience of working with and prescribing community equipment services and therapy services including occupational therapy services.
8. Experience of supervising, practice teaching or mentoring staff and delivering training.
9. Ability to research and use of best practice relating to occupational therapy and community equipment from elsewhere and provide positive and innovative solutions/suggestions and to progress these through at a practical level.
10. Highly developed communication skills with the ability to translate complex concepts and themes and interpret these for different audiences.

11. Experience of working across health and social care systems, with multiple stakeholders and as part of a team to achieve a common goal.
12. Experience of using computer-based packages and employing them to interpret data.
13. Experience of coordinating and chairing meetings.

Skills and Abilities

14. Ability to work independently.
15. Ability to work in partnership with other professionals within services and across disciplines.
16. Ability to apply Occupational Therapy ethical principles and values to guide professional practice.
17. Developing and delivering training and workshops
18. An ability to balance the need for sensitivity and determination in situations of change
19. A high level of personal drive and commitment to excellent customer care and the ability to set an example for other staff.
20. To be articulate and effective in communicating verbally and in writing at a variety of levels and with a range of people within sometimes large and complex hierarchical organisations.
21. To work creatively and constructively with both determination and empathy in challenging situations.
22. Ability to make decisions and solve problems to meet operational targets, involving devising solutions and prioritising the resources available.

List desirable criteria:

Experience of maintaining accountability for project or programme delivery

Within reason these key deliverables may evolve to meet service need and it is expected that the postholder will be flexible and adaptable in their delivery to meet both service and council wide needs