

Psychology Undergraduate Internship Placement – Local Authority Children’s Services

Location of Placement

Clinical Psychology & Therapy Service (based within the Local Authority Children’s Services), which has 3 teams across Cornwall.

Accessibility:

Is a car required to undertake this placement?

Yes

Description of Role:

Include key tasks and opportunities

The Clinical Psychology & Therapy Service is a team of Clinical Psychologists based within the Local Authority Children’s Services. We provide support to the professional systems working with Children, Young People and Families at different stages of Local Authority involvement. These include Child Protection, Children in Care, Leaving Care/16plus and children who have been Adopted or made subject to Special Guardianship/ Child Arrangement Orders. Our work is primarily through consultation and training although we also undertake direct work (mainly groups) with carers.

The majority of children who the service support have attachment difficulties and developmental trauma as a result of their early abusive/ neglectful experiences. The content and nature of the work within the team is highly emotional and part of the Psychologists role is to support others to understand and process trauma. As a result, Interns will need to be resilient and reflective individuals who can manage clinical material with a high level of emotional charge. They will need to be individuals who can make good use of reflective supervision to support their work and wellbeing.

We are offering a supportive environment in which to develop. We would like help in undertaking literature reviews and consolidating information on key areas (like contact or child sexual abuse) to help inform our work in developing policies and interventions. We would also value assistance in developing resources for us to use clinically such as booklets on common presenting difficulties (like friendship difficulties, shame etc). You would be supported practically in this work and see how the information you collected helps in our work.

We regularly run groups, workshops and trainings for professionals and families we work with and would appreciate support in the evaluation of these and in helping us prepare materials to use in them. Interns would be invited to

attend these groups where clinically appropriate to develop their own learning. There may also be opportunities to take part in service evaluation on different parts of our work to help us understand need and effectiveness.

Many of the Clinical Psychologists undertake Recovery Plans on Children In Care to understand how their experiences have affected them, with recommendations made to support their recovery from developmental trauma. We would like support from Interns in terms of information gathering (from social care records) and in assessments (scoring/interpreting tests under supervision). In return you would be supported to see how this information fed into psychological formulations and supported young people's recovery from early adversity.

There may also be other opportunities on offer such as observing/ supporting consultations and co-facilitating some small group work. We believe this opportunity being offered, by the Clinical Psychology & Therapy Service, will provide interns with an excellent overview of the modern ways of working of Clinical Psychologists. The team have supported the professional development of numerous trainee and assistant psychologists, and are committed to improving and developing interns' skills with a view to giving them a foundation in any future clinical career.

Preferred placement duration in weeks:

40

Placement days:

3 days a week